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WEDNESDAY 25 OCTOBER 1995

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#### Shrink the state, Patten urges

DONALD MACINTYRE Political Editor

Chris Patten, Governor of Hong Kong, last night issued a startling warning that Britain needs radically to "shrink" the state, to compete with "booming" Asian economies where only 16 to 25 per cent of national income goes on public The former Conservative

chairman became the most authoritative figure on the onenation left of the Tory party to back a massive reduction in state spending as a proportion of Gross Domestic Product. The British percentage currently is 43 per cent. Mr Patten's conversion mirrors that of his friend. William Waldegrave, the Chief Secretary, who earlier this month said the further that spending, as a percentage of national income, could be driven below 40, the better.

Some Tory MPs will see it as a sign of the reunification of left and right in the run-up to the general election, as it coincided with an endorsement by Douglas Hurd, former foreign secretary, of what is seen as the more Eurosceptic stance of his successor, Malcolm Rifland.

Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, said last weekend in a



Chris Patten: Conversion

BBC interview that it was. desirable to "work towards" ensuring that the state "really should never take more than 40 per cent of GDP". However, Mr Clarke also repeated his commitment to a "high quali-ty" health service, higher standards of education and the welfare state.

While insisting that he did not advocate a "slash-and-burn" approach to public spending, Mr Patten used a comparison with Hong Kong and other vibrant Asian economies to stress. that "we shall only be able to restore the authority of states by shrinking what they do".

Mr Patten said he was not calling for the "crasser sort of

"that we need an ideological assault on the public service". Nor did he suggest in his speech to the Conservative Political Centre to what level expenditure should be cut. He added that the big European states were "muscle-bound but weak, ambitious but decided. To do

much better they must do less." Mr Patten's speech came as Mr Waldegrave warned the Tory backbench finance committee that tough spending cuts would be needed in the current

In Hong Kong, Mr Patten's intervention will be seen as the start of his re-entry into British politics, and of his detachment from local affairs. Nevertheless, much of Mr Patten's trip is devoted to Hong Kong affairs. In meetings with Mr Rifkind,

Michael Howard and Robin Cook, Labour's foreign affairs spokesman, the governor is pressing his case for holders of Hong Kong British passports to be given rights of British residence. Mr Patten is especially pressing the case of 7,000 residents of Indian origin who could become stateless Mr Hurdwent out of his way

in a speech to the Conservative Group for Europe last night to dispel any potion that he was at Eclipse puts Taj Mahal in the shade



#### Tories uneasy over divorce Bill

The Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, will tomorrow attempt to head off growing Tory backbench unrest about divorce law reform. With an estimated 100 Tory

MPs prepared to vote against the changes, the Government is likely to offer a free vote. Labour support will guarantee its passage through the Commons. A group of Tory back-

benchers, led by John Patten, the former Secretary of State for

after one year without having to prove that the marriage has irretrievably broken down.

The Lord Chancellor is due to meet his party's MPs to settle backbench unrest about the Family Homes and Domestic Violence Bill, which rationalises civil remedies for domestic violence, but MPs said last night they intended to express their concern at the proposed divorce reform Bill.

Senior Conservative backbenchers said the Government Education, are building oppo- could still be forced to climb

sition to the proposals, which down on the measure, although The Lord Chancellor has would allow couples to divorce Lord Matkay is insisting that the lobbied hard at Westminster. Bill should be included in the Queen's Speech next month.

Mr Patten has called for the Government to "bury the Bill" before it buries the institution of marriage. Opponents, among them John Redwood, the leadership challenger, argue that the better ideas in the divorce White Paper could be enacted without abolishing the principle of fault in divorce. These elements include a requirement for the person seeking the divorce to attend a compulsory interview with a panel of professionals.

He said recently at the launch of the Catholic Marriage Care organisation: "I want couples to talk to each other. I want them to be able to think through the consequences of divorce before

Chatham House speech deliv-

ered by the Foreign Secretary, in which he said Britain should

not subordinate its own inter-

ests in order to maintain in-

ternational influence. Mr Hurd

urged "all Conservatives to sup-

port the European policy now

being carried forward by the Prime Minister and the Foreign

But Mr Hurd's plea not to disrupt the "truce" inside the

party over Europe will also be

seen by pro-Europeans as a warning to Cabinet right-

wingers who have launched a

fresh effort to persuade Mr

Major to rule out a single cur-

rency in the next Parliament.

Although Mr Major is un-

derstood to have listened sym-

pathetically to pleas from a group of ministers, including Lord Cranborne, leader of the

Lords, for a manifesto com-

mitment not to join a single cur-

rency, Mr Clarke and Michael

Heseltine, the Deputy Prime

Minister, are thought still to be

resistant to any change in the

stance of neither ruling EMU

membership in or out. Mr

Clarke in the same weekend

television interview stressed his

enthusiastic support for the

Patten's speech, page 19

"policy we have all agreed".

The divorce Bill is likely to be introduced in the House of Lords. A number of Catholic MPs, including Mr Patten, are opposed to it, but the Catholic bishops have welcomed the attempt to minimise the damage ed by high divorce rates.

#### Churches unite to attack 'damaging' lottery

RHYS WILLIAMS

Senior representatives of Britain's main churches attacked the National Lottery mantle those regulations. yesterday, accusing it of undermining public culture and damaging society.

In the first official cross-de-

nominational statement since the lottery was introduced last year, the Council of Churches for Britain and Ireland said that the public benefit served by proceeds from the weekly draw and scratch cards had failed to compensate for the harm being done to the vulnerable and poorer sections of society.

After a meeting of its social responsibility representatives, the findings will be passed on to church leaders. The council said in a statement read by the

Rivers in danger

Scotland's rivers, a vital

natural resource for in-

dustries such as tourism,

fishing and whisky, are

being destroyed by pol-

lution and building de-

velopments, the World

Wide Fund for Nature

Page 9 | ing signal".

century has been the regulation of gambling. The National Lottery threatens recklessly to dis-

The National Lottery's huge advertising budget, coupled with publicity in the media, has created a considerable likelihood of gambling harm with little prospect of public benefit." The lottery was undermining

"the public culture", in which "money from taxation, charities working at national and local levels, central and local government have co-operated to sustain the common good".

The council called on the

Government to commission independent research on all aspects of the lottery and urged Parliament to establish a Gambling Research Council: It also Rt Rev David Sheppard, the demanded that no more li-Bishop of Liverpool: "One of cences for Instant Game scratch the achievements of govern- cards be issued, that the mini-

IN BRIEF

The Confederation of British Industry

reported the biggest drop in business optimism since Britain tumbled out of

the European exchange rate mecha-

nism in 1992. Its latest survey confirms

slower growth, described by Andrew

Buxton, chairman of the CBI's Eco-

nomic Affairs Committee, as a "warn-

Lord Young of Dartington is

spearheading a bid to head off the privatisation of council cre-

matoria, which he says will lead

to a mass take-over by one US

Funeral fight

funeral company.

Page 21

Page 2 | tests.

Vote of no confidence

be raised to 18, and the size of jackpots limited to around £1m. And on the day after more than 600 charities were awarded £40m of lottery cash, the council also reminded people that the most effective way of help-

ing charities was by donations.

A Camelot spokesperson said last night: "It's disappointing that the Church is taking such a negative view of the National Lottery, which is en-joyed by 30 million players each week and has raised over a billion pounds for good causes to date. Parliament decided that the minimum age for playing the National Lottery should be 16, and we believe this is the right age. The minimum age for do-ing the Pools is also 16. We are confident that our prize structure will maximise returns to the

Winning quality, page 5

Abuse inquiry verdict

John Bennett, director of social

services in Northumberland for

the past nine years, has applied

to retire on the grounds of permanent ill-health" after an

inquiry accused him of mis-leading government officials

over abuse in local children's

Both the European Commis-

sion and the European Parlia-

ment backed away from any confrontation with France over

the issue of French nuclear

l'actical withdrawal

Page 2

#### Prudential branches into telephone banking

JOHN WILLCOCK

Prudential, the UK's largest nsurer, yesterday declared war on all the high street banks and building societies by announc-ing that it is to launch a telephone-based banking service.

The company said one of its main targets would be to persuade its 6 million clients, who receive up to £1bn a year when their policies mature, to bank with the Pru-

It also intends to launch a massive advertising campaign aimed at winning over millions of other bank and building society customers.

The insurer also aims to bring under its own roof the mortgages it currently arranges with a panel of other lenders. Prudential's move, due to begin by the end of next year, is part of a £30bn reorganisation

this year, which has included a series of dramatic merger

Peter Davis, Prudential's group chief executive, said that only building society-style de-posit accounts would be available at first. But he did not rule out the Pru moving into more traditional banking areas, including current accounts, credit cards and other loans.

"Offering traditional building society products of competitive deposits and mortgages is an important step for Prudential in widening the range of products available to our customers," Mr Davis said.

"Prudential already arranges around £700m a year of mortgages for its customers using a panel of building societies and banks. In addition, we pay out more than £1bn per year in ma-turing policies which research shows is largely placed ou de-posit with building societies and banks. Given this base, we believe we can build a substantial business in a short period of

The Pru has recruited Michael Harris, former chief executive of First Direct, the UK's first and most successful telephone-based bank, to head

its banking operation.
The launch will be backed by Prudential's 7,000-strong direct sales force and a £70m investment on equipment and office

Experts yesterday greeted the announcement with enthusiasm. "It's very positive news," ABN AMRO Hoare Govett. "There's always been a strate gic case for the Prudential to be in the mortgage lending and deposit-taking business."
Taking on the banks, page 21

## OI! YOU!

#### COMMENT

Chris Patten: The case for seriously slimming down Polly Toynbee predicts that proposals for divorce reform could turn into another Child Support Agency fiasco. Page 19

News Analysis: A high street bank to suit every kind of need? Page 17

Robert Fisk's Beirut diary. Page 17 Leading article: Beware the French Lieutenant's Grockle. Page 18

Another View: Bobbies on the beat. Weather: The whole of the British Isles can expect a day of

sunshine and showers, with gusty south-west winds. Scotland will be very windy, with heavy showers. Section Two, page 21 ARTS 7-10 CHESS 22 CROSSWORD 22 FINANCE 14

BUSINESS 26-24 COMMENT 18,19 CROSSWORD 28 GAZETTE 16 LAW REPORT 16 LEADING ARTICLES 18 LETTERS 18 NEWS 2-15 OBITUARIES 16 STARES 23 SPORT 25-28 UNIT TRUSTS 24

section

HEALTH 6 LAW 11 LISTINGS 20,21 REVIEWS 10 TELEVISION & RADIO 23,24 THEATRE 8,9 WEATHER 21

#### If you sponsor Shomita, no one will have to sponsor her children Little Shormita is just six years old and the only life she's known is one of hunger poverty and disease. But by the time she has children of her own, this could be a very It could be one about families, about villagers working together to earn their own living. About children who can read and write and have a future. About a community that can treat the sick and is free from latal diseases. And if it is, it is because you care enough to sponsor a child. In return, we'll keep you in touch with regular reports from our field workers plus a photograph and messages from the child you sponsor. Please sponsor a child today. With your help, we sally can change the luture. Piease sponsor a child today. $\square$ Piesse send are details about spontoring a child, or call: $01460\,61073$ . ☐ACI2 ☐Whose those's consists need Main chappes/POs payable to ACTIONARD, and send to ACTIONARD, FREEPOST 854869, Chard, Somerael TA20 19R.

The Rosemary West trial: Pathologist tells court how alleged victims were bound, gagged, and dismembered

#### Grim remains reveal 'torture masks'

WILL BENNETT

The masks allegedly used to silence women who were kept alive while being sexually abused by Rosemary and Frederick West were described to the jury at Winchester Crown Court

Seven uf the nine victims whose remains were found at the couple's hume at 25 Cromwell Street, Gloucester, had been masked or gagged. Most had been decapitated and dismembered and many had

bones missing.
Details of the grim discoveries during the police excavation at Cromwell Street last year were given to the court by Professor Bernard Knight, a Home Office forensic pathologist who was called to examine the

It will offer councils a "bribe"

to encourage them to sell, the college adds. "Up to now the

grip of the central government

has required councils to set aside 50 per cent of any cre-

matoria sales and use it to re-

deem debt. Under the new regulations they will be able to keep for their general purposes 90 per cent rather than 50 per

"The inducement is to oper-

ate only for a period of 18

months from 1 January 1996.

Privatisation is to be rushed

through, it seems, before the

Local authorities are under

financial pressure to raise funds

for the cost of meeting new en-

vironmental regulations on pol- death."

cent of the proceeds.

general election."

dering ten girls and young women whose remains were found at 25 Cromwell Street and at the West's previous home in Gloucester. Mr West, who was charged with 12 murders was found dead in his prison cell on the 1st January

The court heard that the bones of Shirley Hubbard, 15, were found in the cellar at Cromwell Street with her skull encased in a mask of brown parcel-type adhesive tape ound around her head 11 nr 12 times. Inserted in this was a plastic tube, part of which was bent up to reach her nostrils.

Alison Chambers, 16, was discovered with a leather belt fastened around her skull while a knntted einth, square-folded and rolled to form a loop, was



Bernard Knight: Remains

found next to the skull of Therese Siegenthaler, 21. Lucy Partington, 21, had two pieces of woven cord-type material knotted together below her jaw, and Juanita Mott, 18, was discovered with a band of

fabric passing under her jaw and around the back of her head and with a plastie covered rope wrapped around other bones.

A ring-mask of adhesive tape was found near the skull of Lynda Gough 19, and Carol Cooper, 15, was discovered with an elasticated cloth band around the low part of her skull which had been wound round her jaw and the back of her head.

There were no masks on Heather West, 16, or Shirley Robinson, 18, whose remains were also found at 25 Cromwell Street, or nn those nf Charmaine West, 8, daughter of Mr West's first wife Rena, discov-

ered at their previous home at 25 Midland Road, Gloucester. Professor Knight said that most of the bodies had been dehad the legs removed at the hip

joints. The remains discovered at Cromwell Street were in "anatomical disarray" in graves at the floor of the dock. too small for them to be buried

In every case bones were missing, most commonly one or both knee caps, and large ournbers of wrist, ankle, toe and finger hoees. There were cut marks made by sharp implemeots on many bones and a knife was found in Lucy

full-length.

Partington's grave. Professor Knight said that it was not possible to give the cause of death in any of these cases or to say whether or not decapitation and dismember-ment took place after the victims had died.

During the evidence about the remains of Heather West, her mather, who normally watches everything being said in

the witness box, looked intently

Earlier the jury had listened to tape recordings of police interviews with Mrs West after her arrest in February last year.

Detective Sergeant Terence Onions told her that Mr West had gnne back to 25 Cromwell Street with police officers. DS Onions said: "During that vis-it to the house he indicated the officers were digging in the wrong area of the patio or gar-den. He then indicated where they should dig and indicated to what depth they should dig.
"A short while ago human

Temains have been recovered form the area which Mr West has indicated and for obvious reasons we believe those human mains to be those of your danighter Heather. Is there anything you want to say about

that?" Mrs West shook her head and did not reply. DS Omons asked: "Was [Heather] killed because, as you said, she was different from the rest because she was going to blow the whistle on what happened in your house? Which, from statements I have read from your children, was a bit like a prison for them." Mrs West said: "I do

not know nothing about it.

During the interview she told police that her husband had forced her to have sex with black men who paid him for this, and that she had slept with one of them the night after Heather vanished. She said that her husband was a violent man who had hit her on a number of occasions, once twisting her jaw, and that he had once tried

The trial continues today.

#### IN BRIEF Siamese twins given

solar black out: 11

private funeral The Siamese twins Nicole and Chloe Astbury, who died last Thursday after surviving 35 days, were buried yesterday at Denton cemetery, Manchester.

The girls' father. Brian Astbury, 26, carried the joint coffin, followed by his wife, Melanie, 25, and about 40 movingers after a Church of England service in the ceinetery chapel. The twins died of a rare bowel discuse within five minutes of cach other at M Mary's Hospital Manchister, where they were born.

Mass DNA tests Warwickshire police took the fi of up to 800 DNA samples killer of Naomi Smith, 15, wh mutilated body was found 2 yards from her home at Anstey Common near Nuneaton on 14. September after she had gone out to post a letter. Police de-

Gurkhas reprieved Four hundred Gurkhas who were going to be made redundant because of army cuts will be kept on for another three years to fill gaps in British infantry regiments resulting from the current recruiting crops.

scribed it as an "elimination ex-

encise", which is not compulsory.

Archdeacon ousted One of the Church of England's most controversial traditional most controversal traditionalists, the Venerable George Austen, the Archdeacon of York has lost his fight for a seaton the General Smod The Venerable Christopher Hawthorn, the Archdeacon of Cleveland, replaces him.

Firefighters' strikes Members of the Fire Brigade Union in Merseyside lan-nounced more 24-hour strikes - on 1, 2, 4 and 6 November when talks over job losses and shift patterns broke down.

One up, three down A man who fell through three

floors when his terrace house in Huddersfield collapsed walked away with just bruising. Builders were working on the floor below where George Gayle was watching television when the house collapsed.

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#### Peer leads fight to scupper sale of crematoria PETER VICTOR lution. Under the Environmental Protection Act, crematoria have to meet new smoke-emis-Lord Young of Dartington is sion standards, and the cost is spearheading an attempt to head off the privatisation of likely to be at least £450,000 to upgrade each crematnrium. The Government has also council crematoria. The National Funerals Cullege, which tuld councils that they must get is writing to all the local authorities in Britain, elaims the money from private sector partners or buyers before seeking sale of council crematoria will any cash from taxpayers for the lead to a mass takeover by une American funeral company. According to the funerals Lord Young, a life peer and founding president of the fucollege only one private sector nerals college, has laid down a motion in the House of Lords huyer has expressed any interest; Service Corporation Inaimed at scuppering the Govternational, an American funeral service company, has al-ready acquired funeral directors ernment's planned privatisation of Britain's 193 municipal covering 15 per cent of the Unit-According to the funerals college, the Government plans ed Kingdom funeral market. A college spokesman said: "The Government will be helpto transfer these to the private ing to create a monopoly, start-ing with a series of local sector "oo as large a scale as

Face to face: Archbishop Desmond Tutu with his bust, by John Houiston, which was presented to King's College London yesterday

#### Prison attack leads to security inquiry

al companies. It warns: "If the Government refuses to withdraw its latest privatisation, the commercialisation of funerals into prison security as it could be taken much further emerged that Michael Sams, a than it has so far. The fundaconvicted killer, had made sevmental religious significance of eral threats before he tried tu a funeral could be further throttle a probation worker at Wakefield jail, writes Jason dimmed by an array of devices for making more money out of

Sams, 53, attacked the pro-

An inquiry was set up yesterday bation officer, Julia Flack, 49, no one had told its workers that members of staff. The Prison threats, abuse or assaults over an archdeacon's wife, on Monday as she held a surgery in the prison. Sams was jailed two years ago for the murder of Julie Dart and the kidnap of an estate agent, Stephanie Slater. The National Association of

Sams had been transferred to the prison's B wing, where the incident took place.

Its assistant general secretary Harry Fletcher also claimed that there had been complaints that Sams had made a oumber

Service is investigating the case. The announcement came on

the day that a Government report was published, revealing the results of a survey in which one-third of the Hertfordshire probation staff who took part Probation Officers claimed that of threats, mainly against female said they had experienced since 1983 to 14,000 in 1993.

a three-year period.

Better training and risk assessment must be carried out, the report said. It added that the oumber of dangerous criminals prohation workers deal with had more than doubled

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monopolies linking local funeral directors to the local cre-

matorium. The costs of funer-

als are already an awful burden

to some people and the burden

could become much more so in

This is particularly worry-ing according to the college, be-cause there will be no outside

regulator to oversee the funer-

the future.

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Council chief quits in abuse row

GLENDA COOPER

A council social services director is retiring after an inquiry ac-cused him of misleading government officials over abuse

in local children's homes.

John Bennett, director of social services in Northumberland for nine years, has applied to retire oo "grounds of per-manent ill-health", the council leader, lan Swithenbank, said last night. The report, commissioned hy Northumberland County

Council and carried out by William Kilgallon, ehief executive of a Leeds housing trust, found that the reasons Mr Bennett gave for suppressing alle-gations of practices "akin to pindown" to both the Department of Health and his own social services committee were

"not convincing". In 1991 the department re-quested all authorities to review esidential ehild care practices in the wake of the Staffordshire pindown inquiry. The report



John Bennett, left, and William Kilgalion, who found the director

"the worst element of institu-tional control" such as special elothing, strict routine, segre-



Eight of the nine homes in

Mr Bennett's area were found to be satisfactory. But at Netherton Park, which houses boys and girls with difficult behaviour, the review team found



suppressed evidence of 'pindown' in a children's home .

log books contained material indicating practices that might be said to be "akin to pined an independent review should be set up "as a matter of

urgency". However Mr Bennett withdrew all copies of the report and told the social services com-"a very worrying general atti-tude towards children and [the dence of practices similar to

those which took place in Staffordshire" and also report-Health that areas of concern did not indicate a regime akin to pindown".

Mr Bennett told the inquiry that he felt that the review team had reached the wrong conclusions. Mr Kilgallon said: In my view the reports to the social services committee and to the Department of Health do not reflect the conclusions of the review team and the reasons given for the withdrawal of their

report are not convincing."

Mr Bennett's decision to stand down came as a surprise development from yesterday's publication of the inquiry report which was initially set up to look into the separate issue of complaints about the Meadowdale Children's Home at Bedlington during the 1970s and 1980s.

The report into sexual and physical abuse at Meadowdale will now be referred back to the Crown Prosecution Service after the local authority ac-

"sufficient substance to the allegations to give serious cause ed back to the Department of for concern

The Kilgallon report speaks of three staff members, who used "physical chastisement, particularly on male residents", including the practice known as "knuckling" — a blow to the head with a fist.

The report also looked at the issue of "inappropriate restraint" at Meadowdale arising from children who, due to their disabilities, had difficulty using ordinary furniture or beds.

"Robert" [not his real name], now aged 16, suffering from cerebral palsy and epilepsy, was filmed aged 10 tied down in his bed with a baby harness and thick leather straps.

The video was given to his 35year-old mother by her son's former foster parents who obtained it accidentally. She said: "I felt disgusted when I saw it. Someone somewhere will have to answer to me over this. What I hope is that the report will show that the people who did this are going to be punished."

#### Children betrayed by the professionals

dren were put there because it homes into prominence. was thought they would be safer, writes Glenda Cooper. As the mother of "Robert", who went to Meadowdale, said: "I handed him over to these 'professionals' and this is how Tve been repaid."

The Cleveland inquiry in 1987 identified serious faults in the system by which children were taken into care. Four years later "pindown" - where children in the care of Staffordshire County Council were kept in isolation for days as a pun-

Allegations of abuse in homes ishment for unruly behaviour contain the sad irony: the chil- catapulted care in residential

> Under pindown, children were left in their nightclothes, not allowed to speak to anyone, had to knock on the door to go to the lavatory and had no books or entertainment. Some tried to kill themselves.

But Staffordshire was oot the only scandal. In the 1980s, at the Kincora boys' home in Northern Ireland, three people, including the house father, were convicted of sexual offences. Frank Beck was convicted in 1991 of 17 charges of sexual and

physical abuse of boys and girls in Leicestershire children's homes. He died in prison in June 1994.

Two damning independent reports into the case were published in February 1993. One, for the Police Complaints Anthority, accused officers of "incompetence, negligence and prejudice" in dealing with Beck and blamed them for tending to disbelieve children.

The other report into the county's social services department judged managers "inadequate, naïve and out of their depth". In 1992, a police inquiry

into allegations of abuse in children's homes in North Wales became the biggest investigation ever mounted.

It was estimated there were more than 200 allegations of abuse revolving around two council-run children's homes; Bryn Estyn, in Wrexham, Clywd, and Ty'r Felin, in Bangor, Gwynedd

Altogether 46 homes were under investigation in Clywd and 17 in Gwynedd. Peter 1984 was jailed for 10 years for indecency with children. Two

other men received jail sentences after being found guilty of sexual assaults and two others were given conditional dis-

Less than six months ago, a eport said Islington Council's "politically correct" equal opportunities policy led to children being left at risk from suspected child abusers.

The council was accused of: operating a "pro-active" anti-discrimination policy of recruiting staff without con-Howarth, deputy principal of recruiting staff without con-Bryn Estyn hetween 1976 and ducting checks on their background, thus failing to protect children from unsuitable staff.

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Stamese twins sway

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One up, three down

Solar black out: Millions gather to see Moon obstruct morning light as India's superstitious stay inside to ward off evil spirits

صكنام الاعل

#### Asia shrouded in a total eclipse of the sun



Darkest hour: The total eclipse of the sun at Saraburi in central Thailand yesterday, while (right) young Buddhist monks view a partial eclipse at Mae Sot on the border between Thailand and Burma

Rajasthan

In confusion, the birds stopped flying. The sun was still shining in the Rajasthan desert, and yet it grew cold. The shadows cast by the neem trees spilled out over the ground and spread, until the earth and the sky ran together like quicksilver. India's ast total solar eclipse of the cen-

The total solar eclipse was stretched in a narrow band, around 100 miles wide, from Afghanistan through Pakistan,

In Bangkok, the eclipse made the rush-hour traffic jams even worse as people stopped to gaze heavenwards at the darkening morning sky.

India's Taj Mahal, which was only partially in the eclipse's path, was bathed in pearly twilight, while the sky blackened completely over Cambodia's Angor Wat temples.

Nobody wants to see a solar eclipse alone, when the light of the heavens goes out, and along seen by millions across Asia. It the road to Japur, incongruous stretched in a narrow band, groups - shepherd boys, long drivers, tourists and a few amateur astronomers-boddled to-

The shepherds and gaunt, turbanned farmers passed around a blackened glass, or tried viewing the eclipse through a sweet wrapper. They

sneaked hurried glimpses at the sun as though peeking through a doorway at something forbidden, dangerous, while beside them, astronomers twirled the knobs on their tinted-lens telescopes and cursed every time the elusive eclipse slid from sight.

On the highway between Delhi and Jaipur, a man appeared selling day-glow green sunglasses "special for eclipse: gether in-awe of the eclipse's only". At five rupees a pair, the Sun was being devoured by an ries had crashed. A few corpses Even though Hindu as event on television or per- along the path of the calipse,

and then cycled off to make his last profit this century on garish eclipse sunglasses.

As the Moon crossed in front of the Sun, I could see an effect known as the Diamond Ring, in which the sunrays blaze out from a deep valley on the Moon's edge like a sparkling gem. The sky was dark enough, in mid-morning, to see a thorny cluster of stars. In seconds, the Sun was entirely blotted out by the Moon, Solar flares, some slithering out into space for 3 million miles, became visible. I could see where the ancients believed that during an eclipse, the

die hard; far off in the Rajasthan desert, a gun was fired, presomably at the eclipse.

The complete solar eclipse lasted around 30 seconds, perhaps less. To witness this, I had dragged my family out of bed at 4am and driven 100 miles down the Jaipur road, one of the most perilous in all India. Usually, the highway streams with buses, lorries and camel carts. but because of bad luck associated with eclipses, many drivers stayed at home.

Not all the drivers did, though. Where the highway narrowed for a bridge, three lorcanvas. As we stopped to examine the wreck, a Sikh asked if we were going to see the eclipse. He was.

Was the eclipse inauspicious? The Sikh glanced at the burning lorry on the Jaipur road and shrugged, "No, this is a daily occurrence'

Returning to the capital yes-terday morning. I found the streets deserted even though it was supposed to be a normal work day. People who had stayed in New Delhi during the eclipse said that the sudden darkness had grounded thousands of crows and other birds.

predicting eclipses since the fifth century, ancieot supersticalamities which are thought to tions about the curse of the gods follow in an eclipse's wake. still grip many Indians, Pregnant

womeo were warned to stay indoors to shield against harm to their foetuses, and many Hindus refused breakfast because the eclipse's shadow rays are believed to contaminate food. Thousands of Hindu holy

men, known as sadhus, converged on a large tank at Kurukshetra, 70 miles west of New Delhi, to wash away the polluting effects of the eclipse. Many Indians shuttered them-

the persooal and oational

Earlier Guards at Cambo dia's Angor Wat temples had been disarmed to stop them from shooting in a panic at the dragon swallowing the sun. Thousands of Buddhist monks and visitors also gathered anxiously at Angor to watch whether the eclipse would bring good luck or bad.

But after studying the omens, the monks deemed the eclipse to be good. For the hundreds of astronomers, including over 50 selves up at home, watching the from Britain, who gathered man found a few customers gry scrpents. These superstitions were laid out under a durty tronomers have been adept at forming ceremonies to ward off there was never any doubt.

#### Nature's most awe-inspiring display is a scientific 'fluke'

covers that of the sun - occurs because of a fluke of nature. The apparent size of the two discs in the sky are almost identical, which makes it possible for

the moon to blot out the sun. The true diameter of the sun is some 400 times greater than that of the moon, but because the suo is about 400 times further away, they both appear to be the same size when viewed from Earth, which creates the "black-out" effect of

an eclipse. Jacqueline Mitton of the Royal Astronomical Society said that total solar eclipses, such as the one that swept yesterday across a large swathe of Louis of Bavaria to die of fright south-east Asia, from India to ing" evect. "Gradually, the because the distance between

A total solar eclipse - when the disc of the moon completely course of history, writes Steve Connor

> minutes, the sun's yellow disk is completely covered, leaving only the ghostly light of the sun's corona. Darkness falls as if it the bright outside tim of the sun Such is the drama of a total

solar eclipse that, in 585BC, an eclipse ended the five-year war. between King Alyattes of the so terrified the Athenians, that the Syracusians found them easy to slaughter. And in AD840, a total eclipse caused The apparent sizes of the sun and moon can vary slightly

moon edges further over the the moon and the Earth also face of the sun. For just a few. changes. This means that sometimes the moon's disk is too small for a total eclipse, causing an "annular" eclipse, where

In 1919, British astronomers used a total eclipse to demonstrate that light rays from dis-tant stars are bent by the gravity Lydians and King Cyarares of of the sun, helping to prove Einthe Medes. Another in 413BC stein's theory of relatively, according to Yvonne Elsworth, lecturer in physics at Birmingham University.

Dr Elsworth added that recording the times and dates of solar eclipses has also enabled

of the moon and the planets. A total solar eclipse also allows astrocomers to study the mountains of the moon, because of the shadows it generates as the moon moves past the sun. Another subject of research assisted by a solar eclipse is the sun's outer corona – its upper atmosphere which, at one mil-lion degrees Celsius, is much hotter than the surface.

A total hunar eclipse occurs when the Earth moves between the sun and the moon, causing the Earth's shadow to fall on the

moon and cover it completely. Christopher Columbus used his knowledge of lunar eclipses to predict one on the night of 29 February 1504. He then told the natives of Jamaica that God would be angry with them,

## lan's lest

#### Mongolia set for tourism boost Where to watch the next eclipses

STEVE CONNOR

A rush of bookings is expected for trips to Outer Mongolia after yesterday's solar eclipse across Asia. The oext total solar eclipse will take place in the world's coldest country in March 1997; even though March temperatures in Mongolia fall as low as -35C (-95F), astronomical holidays to the chosen viewing site oorth of Ulan Bator are selling fast.
Public interest in holidays

based around astronomical 1986, when thousands of enjust long for more," he said. thusiastic amateurs converged Queensland for the once-in-a-Eclipses are much more frequent and predictable events, with the United States space predictions of timing, location

Using this data, specialist tour operators study meteoro-logical records to find the most favourable spot on the eclipse track, then construct holidays based on the convergence of the Earth, Moon and Sun. For

50 seconds in Nerth-east Asia 23 secorids in Europe, including

total eclipse was his fifth successful viewing out of six attempts. "Every eclipse is different, and for this one the events has grown steadily since sun's corona was beautiful. You Many of the 312 people tak-

on places like Cairns in north en to Fatehpur Sikri, near New Delhi, yesterday by Explorers lifetime visit by Halley's Comet. Tours from Berkshire were veteran eclipse watchers. They had paid a minimum of £795 for a week in India, including return agency Nasa providing detailed flights from London and visits to the Tai Mahal in Agra and the old royal observatory in Jaipur.

Tempers flared at one point between rival groups of ob-servers. The British contingent had arranged for part of the ancient site to be reserved for its members, but upon arrival at dawn the location was already

Michael Gill, from Solihull in filled with a team of Japanese the West Midlands, yesterday's astronomers plus four armed guards. British observers retreated to higher ground, amid

> tem to keep observers informed about the progress of the Moon across the surface of the Sun. Yesterday's eclipse was regarded as painfully brief by seasoned watchers, a mere 45 seconds compared with a theoretical maximum of more than seven minutes. So as soon as the "fourth contact" took place (the moment when the Moon slipped away from the surface of the Sun), plans were being laid for other eclipses between now and the end of the Mil-

lennium. The total eclipse in the

Caribbean in February 1998 is

expected to attract considerably

accusations of bribery. The

Japanese were also castigated

for using a public address sys-

more interest than the Mon golian event, with the island of Curação one of the favourite viewpoints. And the only total eclipse on British soil this century is scheduled for the west of Cornwall in August 1999. Although the weather omens are oot promising bookings in the Truro area are already heavy.

The interest in astrocomica phenomena is not restricted to amateur astronomers; as well as all the oews crews at Patchpur Sikri, two television teams were filming for documentaries to be Bruce Hardie, a retired BBC

film unit manager and director of the solar section of the **British Astronomical Associa** tion, missed out oo yesterday's eclipse but has seen at least half a dozen others around the world. "It's become popular with the modern-day travel Eclipse tours are the in-thing at the moment. People go out to look around a country and include an eclipse at the same time. Some tour operators make it a feature," he said.

His best personal experience of totality was in Mexico in 1991 when a total solar eclipse lastUntil then, there's Glenfiddich to enjoy.

## Statement of Aims.

Why do we need the Referendum Party?

Both the Conservative and Labour parties are committed to the Maastricht Treaty which has resulted in a major transfer of sovereignty to European institutions. Both parties have refused to submit the European issue to a public vote or referendum. Fundamental constitutional changes, relinquishing sovereignty, should require the consent of the people.

The purpose of the Referendum Party is to present candidates whose single responsibility is to vote in Parliament for such a referendum.

#### Is there anything else on the Referendum Party's political agenda?

No. The Referendum Party has been created for one reason only: to obtain a fair referendum on Europe. Once the referendum has been held, the Party will dissolve itself. This is explicitly written into the Party's constitution. The Referendum Party has no other agenda or purpose.

#### But aren't referenda contrary to Britain's political tradition?

There have been 4 referenda since 1973, all on fundamental constitutional issues. They were:

\*The Northern Ireland Border Poll, 8 March 1973.

\*UK membership of the European Economic Community (EEC), 5 June 1975. (To be a member of the EEC as it was then structured according to the Treaty of Rome.)

\*Devolution for Scotland, 1 March 1979.

\*Devolution for Wales, 1 March 1979.

More recently, John Major has promised a referendum in Ulster on the outcome of the peace talks.

Britain's foremost constitutional authority, A.V.Dicey, wrote "the main use of the Referendum is to prevent the passing of any important Act which does not command the sanction of the electors."

"The Referendum supplies ... the best, if not the only possible, check upon ill-considered alterations in the fundamental institutions of the country."

#### Why do we need a referendum?

It is almost impossible to find an issue more important to the nation than the Maastricht Treaty and its amendments. Germany's governing party, the alliance of the Christian Democrats and the C.S.U., last September published its vision of Europe. Since then, they have described their views publicly on numerous occasions. In effect, they believe that there should be a European supra-state into which would be fused all the nations of Europe. This state would have one Parliament, one Government, one Supreme Court of Justice, one currency.

Most of the Christian Democrats, in other European nations, including the British Conservative MEPs who are allied with the

Christian Democrats, and most European Socialists support the general line of the German proposals

In 1975, when Britain voted by referendum to join the European Economic Community, the proposal was quite different. The Community was to consist of sovereign nations which would cooperate to their mutual advantage without abandoning their national identities. The concept was one of a family of nations, not of a single European supra-state.

No matter whether you are in favour of or against Maastricht, you should nonetheless welcome a referendum,. Those in favour should realise that so radical a change needs to be endorsed by a majority of the public. Those opposed seek a right to vote against the proposals.

When both major parties hold similar views on a single vital issue of overwhelming importance the only way for the electorate to express itself is by a referendum.

#### Does that mean the Referendum Party is opposed to the single market?

No. The Referendum Party's only policy concerns the need for a fair referendum on Maastricht and any successor treaty. However, it should be clear that there is a fundamental difference between the 1986 Single European Act, which removed barriers to the free movement of people, goods and services within Europe, and the Maastricht Treaty, which provides the legal and political framework for a single European supra-state. The latter represents an irreversible transfer of power and should be submitted to a popular vote.

#### How many candidates will the Referendum Party field?

The Referendum Party will field candidates in each parliamentary constituency in which the principal candidates of the major parties are not committed to a fair referendum on the Maastricht Treaty and its proposed amendments.

#### Will you be fielding candidates in Northern Ireland?

No. We believe that it would be a mistake to introduce yet another complication to Ulster at this critical time.

#### Who will be your candidates?

Referendum Party candidates are ordinary men and women, trusted by their local communities, who share the conviction that there should be a referendum on Europe.

#### Why "ordinary people"? Aren't your candidates likely to be politically inexperienced?

The Referendum Party's platform consists of one item only - the right to a referendum. We are not seeking professional politicians but, on the contrary, people who will go to Westminster, vote for a fair referendum, ensure that it is conducted fairly, and then return to their normal lives.

Will the Referendum Party fight by-elections?

#### How can I participate in the Referendum Party's campaign?

We welcome support and active involvement and hope that those who share our objectives will register with us as supporters.

#### Does the Referendum Party welcome as supporters those who are in favour of Maastricht but, nonetheless, approve of a referendum?

Of course. The Referendum Party's purpose is exclusively to obtain a referendum so that people can vote on an issue which will affect their whole future. After a referendum has been obtained, the party will dissolve itself and individual supporters will be free to campaign as they see fit.

Have candidates already been recruited?
We have established a national organisation with regional representation which currently is appointing candidates. We are organising quietly but certainly throughout the country.

#### Would it not be preferable just to support Eurosceptic MPs against their opponents?

In every constituency, we will make a political judgment as to whether or not to field a candidate. Our plan is to support MPs of the major parties who are formally committed to voting for a fair referendum, by not putting forward candidates against them. As we have witnessed in the present Parliament, it is not sufficient just to have a minority of Eurosceptics in the established parties to obtain a referendum, no matter the extent of their commitment.

#### What do you mean by a "fair" referendum?

The question has to be fair and the terms of the debate have to be fair. The question should cover the Maastricht Treaty and its proposed subsequent amendments. The Treaty provides for Inter-Governmental Conferences (IGCs) which are empowered to alter its terms. The next IGC is scheduled for 1996.

The public should be allowed to vote on the broad issue and not be granted a pseudoreferendum restricting the question to technical issues.

Insofar as the debate is concerned, the time and money allocated to each side should be split between those in favour and those against. Maastricht is not a left-right issue. It is one of yes or no. It transcends the traditional party groupings. As all the established political parties are in favour of the Europe of Maastricht, they cannot be expected to determine the terms of the question or the rules of the debate. Both need to be settled independently.

#### By what procedure?

A group of respected citizens whose members would consist, in equal proportions, of those in favour and those against the Europe of

Maastricht, should consider the issues publicly and put forward proposals to the Speaker of the House of Commons.

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If the main political parties commit to a referendum, will the Referendum Party stand down?

Yes. If the question and the terms of the debate are fair and the result is binding.

#### Would the Referendum Party then dissolve itself?

r? Yes.

#### What happens if the Referendum Party were to obtain a majority in a General Election?

It is possible to pass a single piece of legislation in a matter of weeks. Therefore, a Referendum Act could be passed quickly and a fresh General Election called immediately thereafter. In the interim, a national government would be formed whose members would be drawn from all political parties represented in the House of Commons.

#### What would be the Referendum Party's policy if a number of its candidates were elected but not enough to constitute a majority?

Referendum Party MPs would vote tactically to best ensure the passing of a Referendum Act.

#### Did Sir James Goldsmith found the Referendum Party?

Yes. The Referendum Party was founded by Sir James Goldsmith in November 1994. Before then, Sir James, who holds dual British and French nationality, co-founded a political group in France together with Philippe de Villiers, Charles de Gaulle and Thierry Jean-Pierre, the well-known anti-corruption prosecutor.

Thirteen members of the new group were elected and they now form part of the "Europe of Nations" group in the European Parliament. This group brings together MEPs from the Netherlands, Denmark and France and is chaired by Sir James.

#### Does Sir James want to become a figure in British politics?

No. Sir James's objective is to obtain a referendum on this critical issue and let the people decide. He seeks no wider role on the political stage.

#### Why would Sir James spend all this money for no reason?

The political leadership in both main parties are refusing a popular referendum. In effect, voters have been disenfranchised on an issue which will determine the nation's sovereignty and continued identity. There can be no better reason.

#### Will Sir James be a Referendum Party candidate?

Yes. At the next general election, he will resume his residence in Surrey and stand for a local constituency.

THE REFERENDUM PARTY, 39 BUCKINGHAM GATE, LONDON SW1E 6BS. TEL: 0171-828 1673. FAX: 0171-828 0165

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Lottery charities: A guide to the great and good who pick the worthiest causes 

Board rejects 'political correctness' claims

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Community spirit: Damian Killeen, director of the Strathclyde Poverty Alliance, who denied accusations that he runs 'a political campaign'

#### Winning qualities of decision-makers with cash to spend

REBECCA FOWLER

As the National Lottery Charities Board allocated its first £40m to organisations fighting poverty this week, the credentials of its members came under scrutiny. Who is qualified to decide which causes should beoefit from lottery mooey,

while others flounder? The charities board has 21 members representing England. Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, picked by ministers from industry, academia and charities.

The board is led by David Sieff, a director of Marks and Spencer, who is a lover of horse-racing, a member of the couocil for industry of the Prioce's Youth Business Trust,

and chairman of Racing Welfare Charities, Mr Sieff, who will be paid for one day's work a week from a salary range of up to £55,000 a year, is supported by a team of sub-chairmen, who will also receive some payment and non-paid members recom-

Among the most recent recruits to the board is Stella Clarke, a JP and deputy lieu-tenant of Avon and chairman of couocil of Bristol University, who has been involved in social housing. She was asked to join the board by Baroness Blatch, the Home Office minister.

mended by the voluntary sector.

"If you've done things for some time in this area you've got a pretty good feeling for what people are doing, and how they are working in the community."

giveo recommendations from regional advisory panels of volunteers. They are co-ordinated by salaried regional managers and their reports are based on the findings of a team of more than 100 freelance assessors.

The system was defended by Sir Adam Ridley, another mem-ber of the charities board's UK committee, a board member of Hambros Bank: former special adviser to the Chancellor and member for the Council of Charitable Support.

Sir Adam said the board's philosophy was to make a dif-ference. "You could have a populist organisation that hands out money to Guide Dogs for the Blind, but money is already going there".

#### Other members of the National Lottery Charities Board

era Bering: chalman of the Association of hatis; Charty work with attrac minor-ps, the unemployed, hospices, and an

Torri Jones, Wales and UK: Parmec a mem

Action McGinley: Rural and co

#### Lottery board chief rejects Tory critics

JOHN ARLIDGE

Scotland Correspondent

The National Lottery Charities Board yesterday denied fresh charges that its decision to award millions of pounds to of benefits to 16- to 18-year-olds organisations fighting poverty and cold weather payments, was misguided and "politically David Mellor, the forme

rector in Scotland, said that the

fied". Tory MPs criticised the award, the largest of the first tranche of grants announced on Monday, as politically correct because the alliance campaigns on issues such as the restoration

David Mellor, the former Secretary of State for Nation-John Rafferty, the board's di- al Heritage, and Phil Gallie, the Tory MP for Ayr, said that lotdecision to award £666,000 to tery funds would have been betthe Strathclyde Poverty ter allocated to biganisations Alliance was "right and justi- like the Royal National Institute

Guidelines issued to grant applicants

**RHYS WILLIAMS** 

When charities apply to the Na-tional Lottery Charities Board for grants, they are asked to bear firmly in mind the criteria that the board's assessors will use when considering awards.

According to the board's guidelines issued to applicants, assessment criteria fall into four categories - policy, potential achievements, managemeot and long-term viability.

First, applicants are asked to consider whether their initia-tives fit with the board's policy priorities. The initial round of handouts now and in December will concentrate oo schemes tackling poverty. Next spring, for example, the emphasis will shift to health, disability and care charities, as well as British charities working abroad.
Board assessors will then

evaluate the degree to which the charity's proposed activity: in-volve users and beneficiaries in its development and manage-ment, encourages community participation, and fosters self-

licants must demonstrate that any scheme is well-managed and financially sound, well-planned and staffed appropriately, cost-effective and good value for money, committed to equal op-portunities, and able to involve

volunteers effectively. examine other factors which afconsider the presence of strate-gic and impovative thinking – does the activity reflect oew ways of thinking about existing problems; whether there will be sustainable benefit to people or communities who participate: the potential of the activity to be seen as a pilot or model of good practice, or the likeli-hood of the activity cootinuing

occe funding ends.

If successful, applicants will then be monitored in two main ways. First, the board will require progress reports from organisations. Second, it will make random spot checks or request additional, detailed informahelp or improvement. The tion to ensure that the money board also considers how well is being spent appropriately.

for the Blind "who are doing good work in Scotland", instead of groups like the SPA which. they claimed, were "concerned with single interest politics".

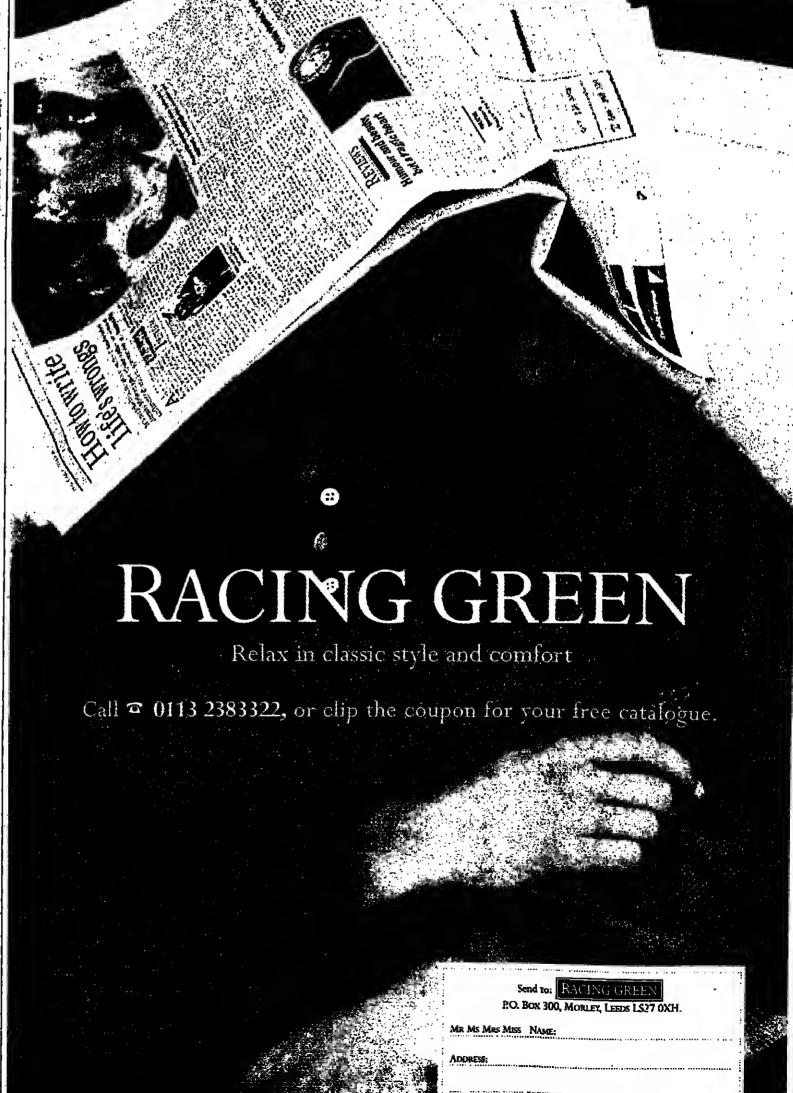
But Mr Rafferty yesterday described the criticism as incomprehensible. He insisted that the SPA, which provides training for local community groups seeking to combat poverty in the west of Scotland. nised by the Inland Revenue.

The Strathclyde Poverty Alliance is a registered charity. Charities are oot political or-ganisations," he said. "The SPA does very valuable work. It met the criteria we set and submitted an excellent application. We

were happy to support it."
He said that the Scottish Office recently provided £33,000 for one SPA project. "This organisation is recognised by the Inland Revenue and directly supported by the Government in Scotland."

At the SPA's Glasgow head-quarters Damian Killeen, its director, called the criticism "ill-informed". He said political campaigns and lobbying reprefect the long-term success of a scoted only "a very small" part scheme. They may, for example, of the alliance's work. It was impossible, he added, to avoid being accused of political bias when dealing with issues like poverty. "We are not a political campaign. Campaigns are only one of the things we do. It is part of any repertoire for addressing social oeed."

The vast bulk of the SPA's work was with members of its 500 affiliated community groups in the Glasgow area. The alliance provided training and theils programme for a second sec skills programmes for people to enable them to lobby their local authorities and health set up food co-operatives, credit unions, and transport services in a region where three families in 10 are on income support.



#### Briton held on failed warrant

IAN MacKINNON

A 48-year-old woman has been held for three weeks on an mternational warrant which failed in the British courts three years ago after being arrested on a day trip to France.

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"Her final days with you were among the happiest of her life. Your gentle skills convert the nal business of dying into

These polyment words from a bereaved husband are echoed again and again by grateful

ine to you for the kind

Brenda Price, who is de-tained at Loos prison in Lille, day crossed the border into Belis accused of involvement in a plot to smuggle hashish into Spain in 1991, when she was allegedly seen handing over the keys of a lorry said to have been

sed in the crime. Four British men were arrested and convicted after police found the Moroccan drugs stored at a Spanish villa. An arrest warrant for Mr

Price, 48, was issued in October 1992 and she was arrested at her home in Harlow, Essex, the following January. She was held in Holloway jail

in London for four weeks as the Madrid authorities prepared the extradition papers, but at a hearing at Bow Street Magistrates' Court the proceedings failed when the papers failed to arrive on time. Spain has made no further attempts to pursue the warrant and Mrs Price has travelled abroad a number of

However, on 5 October, Mrs Price, her husband, Sam and a

times without incident.

gium and were stopped by po-lice on the way back for a routine passport check. Computer records revealed the Interpol warrant and she

was arrested. The British consulate and her lawyer, Bernard Thompson, have visited Mrs. Price several times but say the Spanish have provided oo further information. Mr Price, a market trader,

said: "I know she'll be in a terrible state. I don't know how all this can happen after so long. She is totally innocent and had already been discharged by the court here hecause the Spaniards didn't want to proceed with the case."

But the Home Office said the Spanish would have been within their rights to reactivate

their extradition attempts. A spokesman at the Foreign Office said it was investigating the possibility of pressing the Spanish to move the matter for-

#### Writer finds himself author of traffic gridlock in Dorset



John Fowles, the author of best-selling novel The French Lieutenant's Roman, has launched an attack on traffic congestion in his home town of Lyme Regis - hut admits that much of it was due to the

popularity of his book.

Mr Fowles claims that traffic jams in the picturesque Dorset town, where the Oscarnominated Hollywood film version of the novel, which starred Meryl Streep and Jeremy Irons. was shot, have reached LA-style "gridlock" levels due to tourists. and the behaviour of shop-

Much of the crowding problem is caused by shopkeepers leaving their deliveries until the middle of the day. They feel it doesn't matter if they jam Lymc Regis up," he said, adding: "Lyme Regis is a jewel. There has, only this year, been a very successful attempt to clean one part of the setting

our once very dirty sea. They have cleaned up the sea really nicely. Now we need help to similarly cleanse nur roads." But the 69-year-old author of

Forlorn: Meryl Streep in

other classics such as The Magus and The Collector admitted yes-

is's popularity is his own fault. "I'm afraid much of it is due to my book. It's a kind of guilt I always have in me, that people come here because they've read my book. They're not coming to meet me, but to see the Mr Fowles believes the traf-

fic congestion is the worst he has known since moving to the seaside town in the 1960s. He said many other residents had complained, again putting much of the hlame for the traffic on the shapkeepers who "need persuading that humanity was not evolved in order to make motorised transport the new bane and Hitler of all our existences. I hate having to say this but we need tougher legislation. But, for many shopkeepers, this is Draconian. They think unless the car is allowed all the time then they're losing trade."

Mr Fowles urged the various councils to tackle the causes of the "very bad" traffic, especially the town. It is a fairly common



park-and-ride scheme but we

feel it's inadequate [as] it's only during the grockle season." "Grockle" is the less-thanliterary term used by Mr Fowles to describe tourists attracted to

use can be a little derogatory.

Mr Fowles said he simply wanted to open a debate, whereby people in the town could consider ways to alleviate the traffic problem. He cited examples of towns that had

in the July-to-September tourist word throughout the south-season. He added: "There's a west of England, although its eventual material advantage of the council does talk to the shopkeepers. But Lyme Regis deputy town clerk Mike Lewis said there were no specific plans to tackle the author's concerns. "There has been a

the council does talk to the Highways Authority about general matters, but discusses

And Mr Lewis evidently felt that, as well as Mr Fowles's suggestion to ban cars implicit criticism of tourists, altogether but it got no further," his use of the term "grockle" to

describe them might portray a Lyme Regis that was less than clooming, "I know that 'grockle' is a slang term, but I don't think that is quite right," he said yesterday. "I prefer to think of them as visitors or guests, rather 'grockles'."

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## Police angered by inefficiency claims

patrols, the report found. But al chairman of the Police Ped-

JASON BENNETTO Crime Correspondent

The police reacted angrily yesterday to a leaked report that claims many bobbies on the beat are inefficient, badly briefed and

The consultative draft report of the Audit Commission, the public-spending watchdog, calls for an overhaul of the patrol system, which costs £4bn a year. It says the police cannot meet public expectations hecause the workload is increasing faster than they can cope with it and that much of the management is misguided and inefficient. This has resulted in

tices and concluded that "diintelligence-driven patrolling still has a key role to play". Yesterday the police said that there had been a seacers in recent years and many benefits of patrolling were im-

it did praise some police prac-

possible to quantify. The report comes shortly after John Major promised to pay for an extra 5,000 beat officers. The report calculates that only 5 per cent of police strength is out on patrol at any one time. Yesterday representatives of officers of all ranks challenged the findings of the commission. Fred Bronghton, nation-

eration, which represents beat officers, said: "A visible uniformed presence on the streets provides an effective deterrent against crime, a strong link with the community and a high survey found two out of five officers on patrol had made an arrest during their most recent period of daty, suggesting that their work was efficient.

Jim Sharples, head of the Association of Chief Police Offi-cers, said: " ... It is wrong to suggest that in general patrolling officers are neither directed nor adequately briefed for their role."

Superintendent Brian Mac-

general patrol for a year before

they can take up another spe-cialist role. There is a much

smaller group of officers who

through either choice, or lack of ability, spend their career

Kent has piloted the greater use

walking the beat.

value of the patrolling officer. What's undeniable is that the public, particularly the vulnerable, such as the old, get the patrolling officer." Nevertheless, the report which has been sent to all chief constables, describes "working a beat" as "close to the bottom

Superintendents' Association, said: "It's difficult to quantify the

rung of the police status ladder" says officers are mefficiently deployed in fire-fighting mode, rushing from one incident to another. . It queries whether even tro bling the resources available for patrol would make any significant impression on crime. The report, which is likely to be sig-

nificantly changed before it is published in April, appears to call into question police claims to be giving priority to putting officers on the beat. One paragraph says that while police forces claim that 55 per cent of their strength is "the

frontline, public face of the

police", in practice only 5 per

cent of police strength is out on patrol at any one time. Briefings were said to have been prepared inadequately: only 5 per cent of officers said they were systematically de-

briefed by their sergeants. The report highlights the in-satiable public demand on police time. It says police strength is up 8 per cent since 1980 but since then the number of 999 calls each officer has had to handle has risen by 160 per cent.

#### Youth dominates the beat

Criticism that police officers on foot patrols are mexperienced is incvitable because most beat constables are young and still learning the job, writes Jason

Many experienced officers believe the reports of yesterday's leaked Audit Commission study have identified some of the weaknesses in the system but have underplayed the advances.
All officers spend the first two

years of their probation workmg on patrol -usually on eighthour shifts - when they are not in training school or on a spe-cialist unit.

Once they have completed their probation period they can ing officers to go back on

join a specialist unit, such as the CID or traffic division. It usually takes at least an extra three years to gain further training and qualifications before they can move. A decade ago, officers would be expected to serve much longer in uniform before

they could leave the beat.
The vast majority of officers on the beat are now made up of the young and relatively mex-perienced," one policeman said. This change, some officers be-lieve, has led to a lowering of the priority being given to patrol constables.

To help redress this, the police service is increasingly forc-

In the first two years, the pro-bationary, officer will learn how to carry out searches and how the law works, but most of all how to deal with people.
Patrols are increasingly given specific tasks and targets.

of intelligence-led patrolling, in which constables are sent to areas where their superiors believe crimes are most likely to be committed.

#### Tube faces more strikes after vote

More strikes on London Un-derground appeared mevitable last night after members of the RMT rail union voted in favour of industrial action, writes

Christian Wohmar. The RMT executive meets today to decide on what action to take - which is likely to be 24hour or 48-hour strikes, for which seven days' notice must be given. Previous strikes by RMT

members have been disruptive, with stations being closed and cancellations of some trains. But, unlike their Aslef counterparts who represent drivers, they were unable to paralyse the network in three days of action taken earlier this year. Aslef has accepted the 3 per cent offer from London Underground,

The move for strike action

voted. A London Transport spokesman said that about 70 per cent of RMT's members either did not vote in the ballot or voted against taking action which meant "it was not a mandate for industrial action". However, Wilf Proudfoot, but RMT is seeking 6 per cent.

RMT's assistant secretary, said: "The ballot is the third time that on members to take action".

was by 1,735 to 969 votes hur only about half the members andustrial action in this disindustrial action in this dispute, and I hope this time mangement get the message that they have to negotiate serious-The executive committee had postponed a decision on further industrial action to consuit with members, but added that there was "no doubt after today's vote they will be calling

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ifter vote

#### Turbo-charged Heseltine plays it for laughs

☐ Deputy Prime Minister stands in for Major ☐ Prescott attacks waste of public money ☐ Army undermanning admitted

up. Yesterday was the freal thing - Michael Hescltine's secood appearance at the despatch box as Deputy Prime Minister, standing in for an absent John Major, hut the first on which he clashed with his Labour counterpart John

While Mr Prescott got the slightly bigger cheer as he took his seat, Tory MPs lapped up 15 minutes of turbo-charged Heseltine in the sort of performance designed to avoid the bothersome business of properly answering the questions.

Prescott extended the conven-tional welcome to Mr Heseltine as he launched iotu a reference

Questions, "It has been a long time, hut you have finally made it." That got the Government front bench laughing along with Labour MPs. In a later slip of the tongue Betty Boothroyd, the

Commons Speaker, eveo managed to address him as Prime Minister as the hot air rose. But Mr Prescott was pursuing a serious point, the public money wasted un the poll tax and the new NHS bureaucracy.

and the cost of creating and run ning the Deputy Prime Minis-Opening the sparring, Mr ter's new empire. Mr Heseltine never did answer the question

on his first Prime Minister's to the appointment of Peter Mandelson, MP for Hartlepool. to the deputy leader's

> Inside **Parliament**

> > **Patricia** Wynn Davies

team. "The Prime Minister has trusted me to come alone. You have had a minder appointed to look after you," he mocked.

Sports, was one such.

Supplying the answer himself, Mr Prescott said: "On the Government's own figures, £14bn was wasted on the poll tax, £1bn was wasted on the new bureaucracy in the health service, and the Government's press and publicity machine cost the tax-

payer £m every working day."
To be fair to Mr Heseltine, there was genuine hilarity at some of the asides, however predictable. If the BBC went on showing the Opposition in the light they did in last week's debate on the prison service it would oot be Alastair Campbell [Tony Blair's press secretary] who brought up a complaint but the League Against Cruel

But the fact that the knockabout reached such excitable levels did not help in the matter of answering questions. Amid the hubbuh Margaret Hodge, Labour MP for Barking, was trying to ask Mr Heseltine about the £80,000 computerised desktop diary he had installed in his office, as revealed by the Independent, at public expense.

Prime Minister as some MPs pondered the likely provenance of such a purchase It is little wonder that so

"I have speot no mooey on a

desk," thundered the Deputy

many Tory MPs left the chamber hoping that the Prime Minister would soon be back, Mr Prescott later wrote to his op-

Ps wanting straight an-swers to straight requests need have done no more than look in at defence questions where ministers frankly admitted that the armed forces were undermanned and oceded to be supplemented with 400 Gurkhas earmarked for redundancy and that attempts to sell redundant MoD housing had been a failure; or

perhaps the House of Lords,

ment minister Lord Henley declared that the actual number of unemployed people manag-ing to secure Training for Work was "not important".

John Reid, a Labour defence spokesman, told Nicholas Soames, the minister for the armed forces, that the Ministry of Defence had "some explaining to do" on its redundancy programme.

According to defeoce sources, the recruitment gap could be up to 4,000 soldiers. Dr Reid said that the MoD had spent £500m on making more than 40,000 soliders redundant,

we're short of soldiers, we have to speod £100m recruiting

Tackling a yet further tricky issue, James Arbuthnot, the defence procurement minister, was leaving his options open as he insisted that the Government was "obliged" to consider leasing Armerican F-16 aircraft as a cheaper option than upgrading RAF Tornados, as recommended by David Hart, the controversial confidant, for want of more precise description, of Michael Portillo, Secretary of State for Defence, and Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary.

#### Nolan MPs split on party lines

PATRICIA WYNN DAVIES

The committee of MPs considering the Nolan recommenda-tions un disclosing outside carnings is deeply split along party lines, with Tory opposition threatening to rule out an agreed formula for implementation prior to a Commons

debate in less than a fortnight. Taking their cue from Tory backbench upinion, which MPs say is hardening against disclosure. Conservative members of the select committee have been holding out against the change in a series of fraught meetings over the last week. An inconclusive meeting last night will be followed by another marathon session tonight.

Labour members want full disclosure of annual income from outside interests, or disclosure within mooetary bands. as recommended by Lord Nolan's Committee oo Standards in Public Life.

But the gap between Labour and the Tory members has proved so difficult to bridge that the committee's report could end up containing op to six options for MPs to vote on - ranging from full disclosure to no disclosure - wheo it comes to the House before the end of the

session early next mooth. The debate was promised in July, when a majority of MPs on the select committee asked for more time to coosider the nounced the request as delib-

crate foot-dragging.
Among fall-back suggestions convassed among Tories is that declarations of outside income should be made in confidence to the independent Parliamentary Commissioner for Stan-dards recommended by Lord Nolan without being publicly recorded. Another suggestion is a simplified banding system to allow MPs to record earnings above or below that figure.

The Tories had hoped to win the argument against disclosure by agreeing with Labour that the range of banned outside activities should be widened to include single-client consultancies as well as multiple-clieot consultancies as recommended by Nolan. That would rule out any need to declare carnings, provided the relevant contracts were registered with the Commons. But Labour were understood to have ruled such a deal out last night.

A key figure in resolving the row will be the committee chairman, Tony Newton, Leader of the House. He will want a unanimous final report to put before the House, and his own report may sway Tory members.

A failure to reach agreement would be a blow to John Major who signalled a determination to clean up public life by setting up Lord Nolan's committee in the wake of the "cash for questions" affair.



Homeless protest: More than 1,000 people took part in a demonstration at Westminster 2 and 1 we must be for the homeless yesterday organised by Shelter. The charity is angry at plans to remove the duty of town halfs to provide a permanent bone and is urging MPs to vote against the proposals. The crowd was addressed by the Archibishop of Wales, the Most Reverend Abovil Ross Jones. Photograph: Edward Sykes Photograph: Edward Sykes | at York University.

#### MP to press for tax cuts

COLIN BROWN Chief Political Correspondent

The British defence attaché in Barbados is on the list of cuts to be urged on the Government today by John Townend, the chairman of the Tory hackbench finance committee, to pay for £7bn in tax cuts.

Salmonell

di:

hits Me

It follows the warning last night by William Waldegrave, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, to the committee that there would be tough decisions oo spending cuts announced in the Budget. Senior Tory backbenchers emerged from the meeting convinced that Ken-neth Clarke, the Chancellor, is planning to cut at least 1p in the pound off the basic rate, in a package of tax cuts worth betweeo £3bn and £4bo.

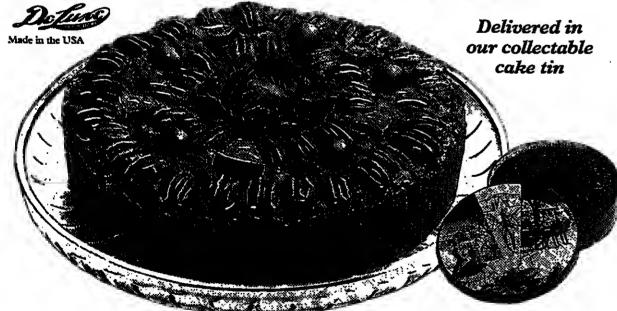
Mr Waldegrave gave an upbeat assessment of the ecooomy, in spite of doubts, reported in the Independent yesterday, by the Chancellor's ecocomic advisers about the wisdom of tax

Mr Townend, a member of the Thatcherite 92 Group, will also question the need to keep the British Army in Germany. And he will criticise the geoerosity of the social security system for unmarried mothers. His agenda for a further £7bn cut in taxes next year will be unveiled at a meeting of the Conservative Studeots Associatioo

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MP to press for tax cuts AMQB: Free a

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Current concern: The river Almond in East Calder, with foam created by household and industrial detergents. Photograph: Jeremy Sutton Hibbert trol measures, hydro-electric

#### Pollution 'killing Scottish rivers'

Scotland Correspondent

Scotland's rivers, a vital natural resource for multi-million pound industries including tourism, whisky and fishing, are being destroyed by pollution and building developments, the World Wide Fund for Nature

warned yesterday.

The environmental group said "wild" rivers were dying out north of the border as discharges of fertilisers and in-dustrial pollution increased.

Salmon and trout were in decline and leisure pursuits such as fishing and rafting which generate millions of pounds a year were at risk, a report re-leased in Edinburgh said. The future of "natural" industries such as whisky distilling, which depend on clean natural water sources, was also threatened.

WWF Scotland said the deforestation of river banks, the construction of new flood con-

meant that "the cherished image of Scottish rivers wild and free is largely an illusion".
Through its Wild Rivers cam-

paign, the organisation hopes to encourage landowners, industrialists and river users to work together to rebuild natural river environments. Simon Pepper, head of WWF Scotland, said the organisation would build on successful river regeneration schemes in France and the Netherlands to "heal this highly important and fragile re-source. Discussions with landowners and anglers had

already begun. Mr Pepper said: "From source to mouth, most of our rivers are subjected to a variety of unnatural influences. The problem is getting more serious year by year. There isn't a major single catastrophic event which we can point to but there is a long slow process of degradation taking place and we

schemes and the increased use need to catch this before it goes of fertilisers and insecticides, too far. Scots are proud of their rivers. They are very important as a habitat for wildlife but also for people who get great satisfaction from them.

They must be saved."

New laws might be needed to impose stricter environmental standards on farmers and industrialists, Mr Pepper said. "But in the short term we believe much can be achieved by people working together andowners, farmers, canoeists, anglers, builders. We want to draw attention to the need for these interests to combine their

efforts to safeguard rivers."
Elizabeth Leighton, head of
the Wild Rivers initiative, said: "All manner of people come to Scotland to enjoy the purity of the environment and all manner of products use that envirooment as a marketing tool. If we lose the purity of Scotland's rivers, we lose a lot more than a few stretches of water. We lose part of the essence of Scotland."

#### Salmonella fear hits M&S

yesterday that it had withdrawn thousands of sandwiches from stores after traces of salmonella were found at the supplier's

Rontine checks at Telfer's of the store chain, revealed traces of bacteria and the factory was closed last Wednesday while health officials investigated. Marks and Spencer said it would remain closed until it and Telfer's were satisfied there was no danger.

A spokeswoman for Telfer's said the factory was undergoing extra cleaning and staff were being given health checks. She added: "Itaces of bacteria were found during the weekly quality assessment test and we told Marks and Spencer immediately and they withdrew sandwiches

The firm said that normal production would only resume when it was sure it was safe to do so. Final results of tests are expected this weekend.

Martin van Zwanenberg, Marks and Spencer's technical Northampton, which produces director, said that his company 400,000 sandwiches a week for and Telfer's had reacted as quickly as possible once the test results were through.

"The sandwiches involved had obviously been sold but as a precaution we decided together with Telfer's first of all to withdraw all the sandwiches we had on display that Telfer's

"All subsequent results, by the way, have been clear. We and Telfer's reacted on the day the results came out. We acted immediately," he told BBC's One O'Clock News.

DAILY POEM

#### **Taxis**

By EA Markham

And you know some things seem to be passed down through the family, like being in the army or claiming a favourite grandmother's illness: they say, once, the ruler of a country instead of killing people, like his father, made an enemy of the flowers; the smell upset him. When the country was rid of blooms he discovered what made him nauseous was new point applied whenever he visited a school or factory.

But taxis were the things to bring tears to our eyes. When her first driver smiled and he had bad teeth, she felt cheated, like flying to America in a second class train with waitress service. The last time she cried in a taxi was the night a man wanted to share, and she said no.

EA Markham, along with Derek Walcott and Edward Lucie-Smith, is the most cosmopolitan of West Indian poets and described by Gavin Ewart as "a writer of great intelligence and distribed by calvin Ewait as a which of great mengetice and vitality who can command a very powerful wry political comment." He was born in 1939 on the island of Montserrat and moved to Britain as a teenager. He has spent his work-ing life as a lecturer in English and creative writing. Mean-while six poetry collections have appeared, the latest of which Misapprehensions, from which this poem is taken, is published tomorrow by Anvil at £7.95.





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Mobile

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targeted

The Government is considering changing the law to cut rocket-ing levels of mohile phone fraud and theft following recommendations from an indus-

try study group.
The four mobile oetwork

companies already intend to in-

troduce a code of practice for

mobile phone dealers, who will

be obliged to make their best ef-

forts to check that any phone brought to them for connection

to a network is not stolen. They are oot obliged to do so now. Anyone can legally capture

the phone number and elec-

tronic serial number transmit-

ted from a legitimate phone and program it into a stolen phone.

The owner of the legitimate

phone theo bears the cost of

calls made on that number.

The proposals would make such programming, called "rechip-

ping" or "cloning", illegal.
The group also proposes in-

creasing the maximum prison

sentence for "dishonestly mak-

ing calls with intent to avoid pay-

ment to five years instead of two and making possession of

Ian Taylor, the science and

technology minister, told Par-liament that the Government

will consider introducing such

measures. "The magnitude of

the problem means it is in-

cumbent on me and other min-

isters to regard this as a matter

of priority," he said later. The industry has been lobbying the

Government to outlaw rechip-

ping for almost two years. Every mouth 12,500 mobile

phooes are stolen, while crim-

such equipment a crime.

CHARLES ARTHUR Technology Correspondent

#### his shame over lying to bankers

JOHN WILLCOCK Financial Correspondent

Kevin Maxwell told an Old Bailey court yesterday of his "feelings of embarrassment and even shame" about lying to hankers but said he only did so refuctantly, on his father's an-gry instructions. He agreed to lie to the Bank of Nova Scotia after a meeting with his father. Robert, in which the latter

banged the table with his fist.

"My feelings of embarrassment and even shame about that conduct [king to the banks] are no different today in this public courtroom than I felt at the time. I do feel very bad about misleading at best and lying at worst to the bank."

In the days after his father's death at sea in November 1991. Kevin flew to Toronto for a personal meeting with Ced Ritchie, Bank of Nova Scotia's chief executive. He did so "because I knew we needed the support of our major relationship hanks. The Bank of Nova Scotia could be one of the most single important banks that could change ihings dramatically for the group if they were willing to sup-port us in a time of difficulty.

He said: "I apologised to Ced Ritchie personally for my cooduct in the summer and failing to be open and frank, for having misled the bank, because I said I needed his help and his support and couldo't come and ask him for his support with this

conduct hanging over my head." Kevin Maxwell, in his seveoth day in the witness box, said he lied to the bank after the Maxwell Group committed a "lechnical default" on the cooditions of its loan agreements. He said he phoned his father about it, adding: "My father's reaction was extremely short and sharp, he told me to get real. He said to have such a conversation on an open satellite line was disastrous, that I was hreaking every rule of confidentiality." Robert Maxwell told him

that if the default was discov-



ered he was to hlame it oo the group's iovestment hankers. Goldman Saehs. Kevin said he felt uncomfortable about this hut obeyed his father's instructions to mislead the hank. "It's not a matter I am at all proud of," he said. "He was angry that was wasting his time on it." Earlier, he had accused the National Westminster Bank of "swiping" \$65m from Maxwell ets and claimed a senior executive had threatened him.

Kevin said that after his father's death he received a personal letter of condolence from John Melbourn, a senior executive with Nat West. But within days of this exchange of letters Mr Melbourn had refused to return shares in the Israeli company Teva which the bank held as a security until the proceeds of the sale of an American company Que arrived. Soon afterwards Mr Melbourn threatened to withdraw banking support for the Maxwell Group.

Kevin said: "I realised the hank held all the cards, they held all the shares as well as the money. I was at the mercy of John Melbourn at that point and a week later at another meeting he threatcoed mc".

Kevin Maxwell, his brother Ian and the former Maxwell financial adviser Larry Trachteoberg deny conspiracy to defraud the pension funds by misusing £22m of Teva shares. Kevin Maxwell alooe denies a similar charge of conspiring with his father to similarly misuse £100m worth of shares in another Israeli company, Scitex. The trial cootinues today.

Son tells of | Wannabees line up to be the right one



Quest for fame: Hopefuls watching fellow applicants auditioning yesterday for the Martini advertising campaign

**LOUISE JURY** 

For the casting director Lucinda Rayburn he was a bright one. Maybe even the right ooe. She could not pronounce Massimiliano Vitulan's name but he had bags of personality. "I thought Mass was great," she said, "And he's got a good body as well." Her fellow judges giggled. "I'm looking from a purely pro-fessional point of view," Ms

Theatre in Piccadilly, London, yesterday, 250 egos were jostling for a place in a revived and rejuvenated advertising campaign for Martini - the "any time, any place, anywhere" drink of the Seventies.

Each would-be star had a few seconds only to prove they were as right and bright as the jingle for the world's best-selling winebased drink. "I just thought it would be a complete giggle," said Annie Grantham, the first

to stand before the judges and make a bid for fame with the words: "Of course I drink Martini. I know I look good and you know I look good.

She was not recalled. Neither was Kenneth Norris, 26, who had travelled 13 hours through the night from the Mull of Kintyre to bare his tattoos. Learning he did stripograms, Ms Rayburn asked whether he was an introvert, "TII show you if you

clined. When the drinks company launched its hunt, it asked television viewers: "Are you the best looking person you know?" They were giveo a number to call for a chance to appear in next year's commercials. More

ing" were called for casting and 10 will be shortlisted. Chris Meredith, the compa-

than 34,000 people rang, 5,000

sent in a photograph, around 250 of the most visually pleas-

Photograph: David Sandison

somebody who is classically m is a classic brand. And someready at least one star in the making. "Wasn't she lovely? The girl in the hat?" she asked referring to Sonya Lee, 26. "She's the best so far."

very attractive, because Martibody who has that on-screen presence." After the first two hours, the list of maybes was far too long. "Be more brutal," Ms Rayburn said. But there was al-

nais "clone" more than 4,000 phones using scanning equip-ment. Cloning rose by 500 per cent in the year to August.
"Highly organised crime rings are using stolen and illegally reconnected handsets as a means of financing other activities such as drug trafficking." Jonathan Clark, chairman of the industry's Federatioo of Communications Services, said.

Mr Taylor said: "I don't want an industry which is one of the great British success stories to be undermined by fears that owning a mobile phone can leave you exposed to fraud."

#### faces loss of all nursery schools

**Education Correspondent** 

A county says it may have to close all its oursery schools and classes if spending on educatioo is not increased oext year. To a report to be discussed by Warwickshire's education committee next week, Ed Wood, the education officer, said it would

oeed an extra £9.4m to keep provision as it is. Without the money, the anthority would have to close its nine oursery schools, 24 nursery classes attached to primary schools and two parent centres.

The county could be open to legal challenge over cuts it would be forced to make to its youth service and provisioo for children with special educa-tional oeeds, he added. Mr Wood has also proposed cuts of forced to cut £9m from its budfilm to sixth-forms' budgets, with the loss of between 40 and 60 teaching jobs.

The hudget cuts could also mean the closure of schools? of more than half in the schools structural maintenance bud-

get, Last night, Mr Wood said Warwickshire had already been get in the current financial year. Despite this, the county was still spending 5 per cent more oo education than the

Government said it should. "We are in a Catch-22 situaing crisis. This list of cuts is

you hate your wallpaper

deadly serious if we want to protest school budgets," he said. Seamus Crowe, head of St Francis Middle School in Bedworth and a prominent member of the Fight Against Cuts in Educatioo pressure group, Face, said: "This is horrendous. We want adequate funding and we want fair funding throughout

the country."

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حكدًا من الاعل

#### Carry on policing, world tells UN

DAVID USBORNE New York ·

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With three days of speeches, gala receptions and non-stop schmoozing behind them, world leaders yesterday gave the United Nations oo its fiftieth hirthday, the gift of continuing life for another 50 years.

With the last speakers due to take the podium last night, heads of state and government were due to adopt a seven-page declaration reaffirming the the goals of the UN's founding charter while pledging to launch it on a course of radical reform.

In their statement, the object of intense behind-closed-doors oegotiation until almost the last moment, the leaders vowed to "give to the 21st century a UN equipped, financed and structured to serve effectively the peoples in whose name it was established".

As far it goes, the document will be a welcome conclusion for the Secretary-General, Boutros Boutros-Ghali, who at the beginning of the session dwelled oo the UN's financial crisis and lamented the "sad news" that member states no longer regard the UN as a priority. No one advocated closing the UN and everyone credited it with keeping humanity free of global war since 1945.

But how genuine is the reaffirmation expressed by the lead-ers and how quickly they will be able to agree on improved financing and internal reforms, including the expansion of membership of the Security Council, remains to be seen. Neither the declaration nor any but a very few of the leaders' speeches offered any signposts for the way forward.

Some leaders voiced scepticism about the prospects. In a speech otherwise devoted to peace in his country, the Bosnian President, Alija Izetbegovic, coocluded with this thought on all of the "nice and noble words" delivered from the podium: "One of the ancient holy scripts says: 'Judge them according to their deeds.' Let us listen to what they are saying, but let us ask them what they are doing. As sooo as they return home, unfortunately, they will continue their course. It is up to us to stop them".

his standard to an emergency session of the UN's General As- ready for months.

sembly early next year to reach some decisions. He was supported by John Major. A decision on whether to call such a session, which UN officials believe would help concentrate minds on resolving some of the issues, can be expected in the next few weeks.

Unquestionably most pressing is ending the financial crisis, which means extracting the some \$1.3bn (£0.8bn) in impaid dues from the United States, equivalent to more than the UN's regular budget for one year. This is not an exorbitant sum - less than what it costs to run the New York Police Department for 12 months - but such is the belligerence towards the UN in the US Congress that the prospect of Mr Boutros-Ghali ever seeing it remains dim.

Mr Clinton in his speech laid out a bargain: Deliver the reforms - slimming down the bureaucracy, reducing the share that the US is expected to pay into UN coffers, cutting back on the number of UN agencies and scaling back peace-keeping and I will prevail on Congress. It is not certain whether even then he could do such a thing. Many member states will demand that the deal be reversed: Give us the money, Washington, then we will reform.

Peace-keeping costs, which have exploded in recent years as the UN has been deployed to trouble spots worldwide such as Bosnia and Somalia, are already falling. Nato is taking over in the former Yugoslavia, the mandate in Rwanda is likely to expire at the year's end and the only countries left with an important UN presence will be Cyprus and Angola.

Britain and other industrial nations, meanwhile, agree that many UN agencies, including the Food and Agriculture Organisation, the International Labour Organisation and even Unesco, the Education, Scientific and Cultural Organisatioo in Paris; should be closed or

Killing these bodies, which provide nice jobs for foreign civil servants, will be resisted by many, however. Meanwhile, efforts to agree on who exactly should get new seats on the Security Council -Mr Boutros-Ghali has nailed Pakistan or India; Brazil or Argentina - have been mired al-



Voice of protest: A Tibetan chants during a demonstration outside the UN yesterday Photograph: Kathy Willens/AP

#### China raps US for 'interfering'

New York - President Jiang Zemin of China yesterday de-livered a sharp and harely disguised jah in the direction of the United States, criticising "big powers" that seek to interfere in the internal affairs of other countries, writes David Usborne.

Speaking at the fiftieth anniversary celebration of the United Nations only hours before summit talks with President Bill Clinton in New York last night, Mr Jiang also forcefully reaffirmed Peking's claim that Taiwan remains part of main-

Relations between the US and China took a sharp downturn last spring when Mr Clinton allowed the Taiwanese in China Mr Jiang remarked: President, Lee Teng-hui, to "Certain big powers, often un-make a private visit to the US. der the cover of 'freedom',

Strains have also arisen he- 'democracy' and 'human rights', an American citizen who was convicted of spying and stealing state secrets before being deported in August.

The peaceful reunification of the two sides of the Taiwan straits is the tinshakable will and determination of the entire Chinese people," Mr Jiang de-clared. In an American television interview this week, the President repeated that "one cannot rule out the military option" against Taiwan.

But in remarks that appeared directed at the US and its efforts in the past to link trade issues with progress oo human rights

interfere in their internal affairs and undermine their national unity and ethnic harmony. This has become a principal cause for the intranquillity in the world today."

Many passages in Mr Jiang's speech were unlikely to sit well with those seeking freedom for Tibet, including a group of Tibetan nationalists who have been staging a hunger strike out-side the UN building for the past week. Mr Jiang sought to condemn governments that, "deliberately ignore the colourworld and practise such hege-

the Jiang-Clinton meeting, even cause of China's treatment of set out to encroach upon the the arrangements for it were dissidents including Harry Wo. sovereignty of other countries, fraught with difficulties. The White House refused an original request for a full-hlown state reception in Washington for the Chinese leader, and suggested a lunch meeting on the fringes of the UN special

> Finally the two sides agreed to meet yesterday in the New York Public Library. Then the venue had to be changed at the last moment to the Lincoln Center after Chinese officials found out that exhibits at the library included a handbill produced by Chinese studeots ful and diverse reality of the during the 1989 Tiananmen · Square protests. It would be un-

#### IN BRIEF

#### Ross Perot stakes his claim

Sacramento - Hours ahead of the deadline, Ross Perot said his supporters had submitted Reform Party registrations for 95,000 people, enough to put the new party on California's 1996 presidential ballot. "We know it's done," the Texas hillionaire said. A tally of registrations will not be known until 13 November. AP

#### US set to move embassy to Jerusalem

Washington — Key senators reached agreement on a bill requiring the US embassy in Israel to be moved to Jerusalem no later than 31 May, 1999. But Senate Republican leader, Boh Dole, and other sponsors of the bill agreed to allow President Bill Clinton to waive the move for a certain period on the grounds of US national security interests.

French police detain 13 'Muslim bombers' Paris - French police detained 13 people in raids on suspected Muslim extremists in Paris and its suburb of Corbeil-Essonne. The swoop was instigated by an investigating judge, Laurence Le Vert, who on Monday ordered two French men of North African origin to be jailed on suspicion of links to the Armed Islamic Group, an Algerian extremist organisation blamed for a wave of

Bosnian Serb war crimes trial postponed The Hagne — The first international war crimes trial since Nuremberg was postponed until next year after lawyers for Dusan Tadic, the Bosnian Serb defendant, said they needed more time and mon-ey to mount a proper defence. Michail Wladimiroff, representing Mr Tadic, who is accused of murder, rape and torture at the Omarska camp in north-west Bosnia, said the defence faced enormous problems in contacting key witnesses, many of whom live in war-torn areas, and would be unable to come to The Hague before next May.

#### **Breathing space for Chirac**

Paris — The state prosecutor will postpone a decisioo oo whether to prosecute Presideot Jacques Chirac over a rented flat pending a ruling on the issue by an administrative court. The court is due to decide next month whether to authorise a separate request to sue Mr Chirac for compensation over the purchase of his rented flat by a company partly owned by the city of Paris when he was the mayor.

#### North Korean 'spies' fire on police

Seoul - Two men described as North Korean spies exchanged gunfire with South Korean forces in the central town of Puyo. A police officer was killed and ooe of the alleged infiltrators was captured after being shot in the leg. The other fled into nearby bills, pursued by thousands of troops supported by helicopters

#### Kingcard is a credit to Heartbreak Hotel

Memphis — Fans of the "King" can now check out of Heartbreak Hotel using the new Elvis Presley credit card. The only credit card officially approved by the estate of the late superstar features three images of Elvis from a 1968 television special and his 1969 Las

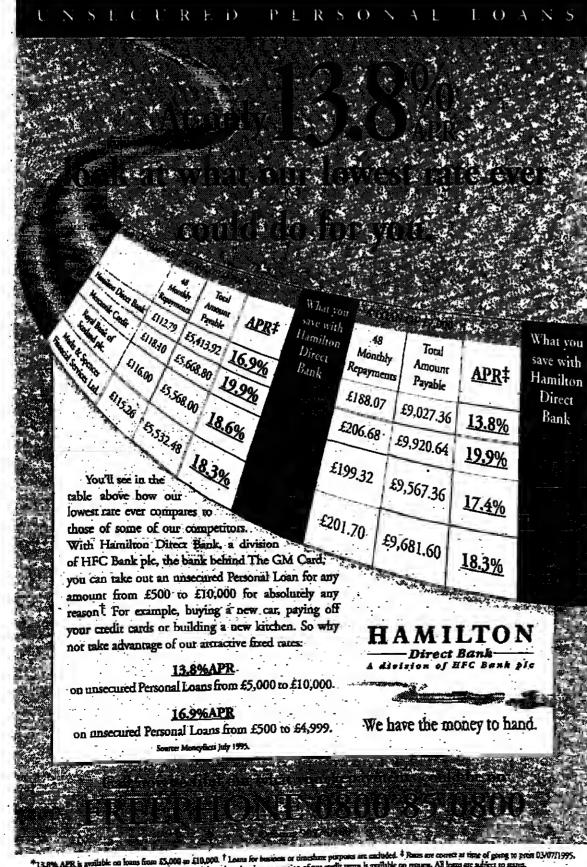


monic acts as imposing one's so-cial system" on other nations.

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Yasser's baby: Soha Arafat, wife of the PLO leader, shows off her daughter, Zahwa, in Gaza city during the UN fiftieth birthday celebrations

Photograph:AP



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On the move.



#### Herd instinct: Klaus Riechert, a farmer from a village near Hamburg, walks his geese on a dike by the Elbe to them in shape. Most will end as roasts on St Martin's Day (11 November) or at Christmas Photograph

#### WINA LOTUS ELISE

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Launched in 1948 by the legendary Colin Chapman, the Lotus appeal is summed up by its two most famous marques - Esprit and Elan. Now a new thoroughhred joins the Lotus stable, the Elise.

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very fast and great fun to drive". The low weight of 675kg benefits braking, handling and steering response. The adjustable driver's scat gives firm yet comfortable support and the minimalist instrumentation displays immediate information.

Visually the car is stunning, the curvaceous lines set off by unique five-spoke alloy wheels. The light weight and acrodynamic shape makes the Elise a "green" machine, cutting down on fuel consumption and thus carbon dioxide

The 1795cc 4-cylinder fuel-injected engine delivers a top speed of around 120mph and the Elise, worth approximately £20,000, comes with catalytic converter, engine immobiliser, cloth trim and black vinyl hood.

Lotus are exhibiting the Elise at this mooth's Motor Show

at London's Earls Court. As well as receiving the keys to a Lotus Elise, our competition winner will also get one year's free insurance provided by Norwich Union Club Insurance. This service offers a 24-hour Clubline which, should you have an accident, connects you to a dedicated Club Incident Manager who will take immediate care of the problem.

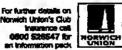
To be in with a chance of winning our prize you must collect six differently numbered tokens from the 14 we are printing in the Independent and the Independent on Sunday. At least one token must come from the Independent on Sunday. We printed an entry form in last Friday's Independent and today we are giving you Token 11. We will reprint the entry form at the end of the competition.

Rules as previously published. For previously published tokens or an entry form send an SAE to: The Independent/Lotus Elise, PO Box 88, Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire AL7 1TX. State the amount of tokens you require (only 4 per application). Please mark clearly on your envelope, Token Request or Entry Form. If you need both, please send separate SAE's. Requests must be received by first post 6 November 1995.

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#### Santer backs down over French tests

SARAH HELM Strasbourg.

In a remarkable retreat on two flanks, the European Commission and the European Parliament yesterday backed away from a confrontation with France over the the issue of French nuclear tests.

Jacques Santer, President of the Commission, told the Parizment in Strasbourg that in the light of new information from Paris, the Commission believed that the tests were not dangerous and that there was no reason to take legal action under the Euratom Treaty.

After addressing the Parlia-ment for less than 10 minutes, Mr Santer announced with confidence: "The tests in French Polynesia do not present any perceptible risk of significant exposure [to radiation] for the workers or the population."

Mr Santer's statement came iours after President Jacques Chirac said in New York that France will carry out six, instead of eight, nuclear tests. There appeared to be little doubt in Strasbourg yesterday that Mr Chirac's decision to reduce the number of tests was linked to an inderstanding with Brussels that Mr Santer would persuade the Commission to back away from legal action.

The Parliament, which had demanded action from Mr Santer to stop the tests, yesterday appeared suddenly willing to accept the Commission's decision, and dropped threats to censure the Commission for failing to take Paris to task. Pauline Green, leader of the Socialist group, asked what reason there was to believe the French data. She said the Parliament had not been shown the new information handed to the Commission. Last night, MEPs met to consider their position, but there appeared to be little stomach for reveals details of Ms Bjerre-

a fight. Only the Greens voiced outrage, accusing the Commission of evading responsibility and lacking credibility.

Yesterday's decisions represent a victory for Mr Chirac, who has seen off the threat of embarrassing legal action in the European Court of Justice.

Taking a stance which can only encourage Britain, a powerful member state has shown two European institutions that it cannot be pushed around. French lobbying has been in-tense, and France's two commissioners have fought hard against any legal challenge.

For the anti-nuclear lobby, the outcome was a serious defeat. And for the two European institutions, the episode has almost certainly caused lasting damage. What the public will remember about the nuclear test

of Mr Santer's presentation, there is little reason to believe public doubts about the tests will have been eased. Mr Santer made no attempt to explain why the new infor-mation produced by Paris after two tests have been carried out

already might be wholly reliable.
"We have no reason to believe the Commission's evaluation of risk, based solely on information provided by the very French authorities who are carrying out the tests and who have systematically covered up relevant data for years," said Undine von Blottnitz, a

Green spokeswoman. Mr Santer avoided criticising France for failing to provide the information to the Commission

row is weeks of posturing in Brussels and Strasbourg. Given the short and superficial nature ticularly dangerous experiment, the Commission ought to give an opinion on health and safety before the experiment begins.

The Commission's climbdown appears in the end to have been brought about as much by political considerations and by the incompetence of its staff as by an analysis of the data. Mr Santer did not want to

force a confrootation with France at a time when many important political negotiations are under way. At the same time, according to several Commission sources, it was the incompetence of Ritt Bjerregaard, the Environment Commissioner, which made it difficult for the Commission to

#### Brussels puts Dane in doghouse

a had day for the anti-nuclear lobby in Europe it was a an even worse day for Ritt Bjerregaard, writes Sara Helm.

Ms Bjerregaard, the European Union's eccentric Danish Environment Commissioner, yesterday lost her campaign to end French nuclear tests, she was scorned in the Parliament, ridiculed in the press and patronised by the President of the Commission, Jacques Santer.

Ms Bjerregaard could have consoled herself that her spicy new book - The Commissioner's Diary - might now become a bestseller in Brussels. But she also learned yesterday that she will see none of the money. "I have heard from President Santer that there are rules that one may not receive fees. I intendto follow them," she said at a press conference in Strasbourg.



Bierregaard: Author of a lcv new book

zard's private meetings with European leaders. It accuses President Jacques Chirac of trying to be a "strong man". Other commissioners are sniped at, details of discussions revealed. Ms Bjerregaard, however, cannot be sacked - except by an action for breach of duty in the European Court. News that the book is about

to be published could not have come at a worse time for Ms Bjerregaard-or the anti-nuclear campaign. The environment commissioner has been lobbying Mr Santer to take stronger action against France over nuclear tests. She promised Parliament she would campaign for an end to the tests. Mr Santer, who was against taking action, has been trying to pull Ms Bjerregaard into line. Already under attack for presenting a poorly argued case, this further undermined her

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When Mr Santer told Parliament yesterday that France was off the hook, Ms Bjerregaard was obliged to watch in silence. At the press conference she had to sit beside Mr Santer like a naughty schoolgirl. The press were not interested in ber antimclear campaign. They wanted to know only what secrets she would publish in the next seri-

#### Vendetta fear halts UK convoys

RUPERT CORNWELL . Washington and REUTER

British aid convoys in central Bosnia have been suspended because it is feared that foreign Islamic fighters are hunting down Britons, a United Nations refogee official said yesterday.

dent on Sunday when two Norwegian aid workers were held up at gunpoint by two men and threatened with execution. The men let the Norwegians

go when they discovered that they were not British, said Kris Janowski, spokesman for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Saraievo.

One of the gummen spoke Arabic and UN officials believe that be may be a mujahedin fighter - a volunteer from an Islamic country who joined the Muslim-led government's fight against Serb separatists.
The UN has linked the inci-

dent to the killing of a muja-hedin fighter by a British UN soldier two weeks ago.

The soldier was guarding an armoured troop carrier during a reconnaissance patrol near Bugoino and opened fire when he believed that the man was about to shoot him, a UN spokesman said.

They seem to have been. looking for Britons. They may be carrying a grudge. It is alaon-ing," Mr Janowski said.

A protest had been filed with the government, he added. The convoys affected are those to the government enclave of Tuzia. Mr Janowski said he expected them to start again in the

The reports underscore the continuing dangers a week be-fore the Bosnia peace talks open in Ohio.

He told the UN that partition would simply lead to a restart of the fighting.

And if the talks were successful, he demanded that the international community deny reconstruction assistance to any party which refused to respect human rights.

The Bosnian leader was

next few days.

President Alija Izetbegovic

yesterday raised the stakes by insisting that his Muslim-led govemment was winning the war, and that he would not accept the division of his country "in whatever packaging it may be served".

pared to meet President Bill ton mat lateral summitry before the two leaders join President Slobodan Milosevic of Serbia for negoti-

There are also growing signs of difficulties in organising the Nato-led fonce that will police any deal.

ations at an air base in Dayton.

Tomorrow the United States and Russian defence ministers meet at the Pentagon to work out a formula for Russia to take part in the force, following the failure of Mr Clinton and President Boris Yeltsin to do so at their brief summit near New York on Monday.

Clinton is mounting congresto Bosnia to help police a settlement. A poll conducted for the USA Today oewspaper indicated a narrow 50-44 margin in favour of US participation.

But that figure turns into a two-to-one majority against oo the assumption that the force speaking as he and President Franjo Rudjiman of Croatia pro-whelmingly the public believes whelmingly the public believes that Mr Clinton should secure proval from Congress be fore sending soldiers, something the White House says it is not bound to do.

The Republican-dominated Congress continues to demoostrate a desire to push into the domain of foreign policy.
Yesterday Mr Clinton re-

jected a suggestion by the Republican Bob Dole, the Senate ajority leader, that President Milosevic should be barred from the peace talks, saying that it would undermine the peace

Senator Dole suggested last week that the United States No less troublesome for Mr should not grant a visa to Mr Milosevic for next week's talks, sional and public unease over plans to send 20,000 US troops mastermind of ethnic cleansing"

#### Subdued Tapie begins last-ditch appeal

MARY DEJEVSKY

Bernard Tapie, the former foot-ball club chairman and politician whose name was a byword for the fast-talking, fast-living France of the Eighties, em-barked yesterday on a lastditch attempt to save himself from the prison sentence that has longed seemed his destiny. Thinner than before and uncharacteristically restrained, he in Douai to start his appeal against conviction for fixing a football match

In May, Tapie was found guilty of organisms payments to two players from the Valenci-ennes football club to ensure victory for his own team, Olympique Marseille, in a cru-cial tie. After a high-profile tri-al, during which he suffered betrayal by a former Marseille colleague, Jean-Pierre Vernès,

Tapie was found guilty and sentenced to two years in prison, one to be suspended.

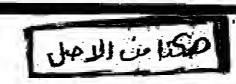
His appeal relies on a new version of events, according to which he admits for the first time meeting the Valenciennes trainer, but denies instigating any payments. Last week, Tapie threatened legal proceedings over a report in the sports newspaper, l'Equipe, which said that Olympique Marseille under his chairmanship was a

The threatened prison sentence seemed to take away some of his flamboyance and he has adopted a low-key approach to his appeal. But scepticism has been expressed about his new image. Some even questioned whether a hospital stay last week might not have been in-tended to save him from prison on health grounds. In a newsprison "terrified" him.

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#### international

#### Chirac promises to recognise Quebec

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The Canadian Foreign Minister, Andre Ouellet, tried to play down the importance of a promise by President Jacques Chirac that France would recognise an independent Quebec if separatists gain a victory in next Monday's referendum.

Speaking to reporters after a meeting of the Cabinet yesterday, Mr Ouellet said he did not think Mr Chirac's comments during an interview in New York with CNN would have

much impact on the campaign.
"I think obviously some people in Quebec would like to see this as a major endorsement." he said. "If you look at what he said, it's not a major endorsement at all."

Questioned about the French President's timing, Mr Ouellet pointed out that Mr Chirac was only responding to a hy-pothetical question from a caller to CNN. "He said he would recognise a fact. And everyone would recognise the fact [if the separatists won]. It would change diplomatic

Separatist leaders in Quebec were quick to pounce on the Mr Chirac's comment. The Bloc Quebeçois leader, Lucien Bouchard, said that by confirming a commitment Mr Chirac had made to him a year ago, when the Quebec leader had visited Paris, he was supporting the separatists' argumeot that Quebec can survive

as an independent country. President Chirac told the interviewer that France would respect the outcome of the referendum vote but would not interfere in the referendum campaign. Mr Chirac had also giveo the Canadian Prime leased later this week which Minister, Jean Chrétien, an assurance that France would not especially on what are considmeddle in the referendom ered to be strategic voters who when he attended the G-7 Sum want to give Quebec a strong mit in Halifax in June.

position during the 1980 refer-

endum campaign, when French agents were active in promot-

ing Quebeckers' dissent. Mr Chirac's earlier promise to Mr Bouchard was made while he was still only the may or of Paris. The Bloc Que becois leader had visited France seeking commitments because international recognition would be a crucial for a nascent independent Quebec.

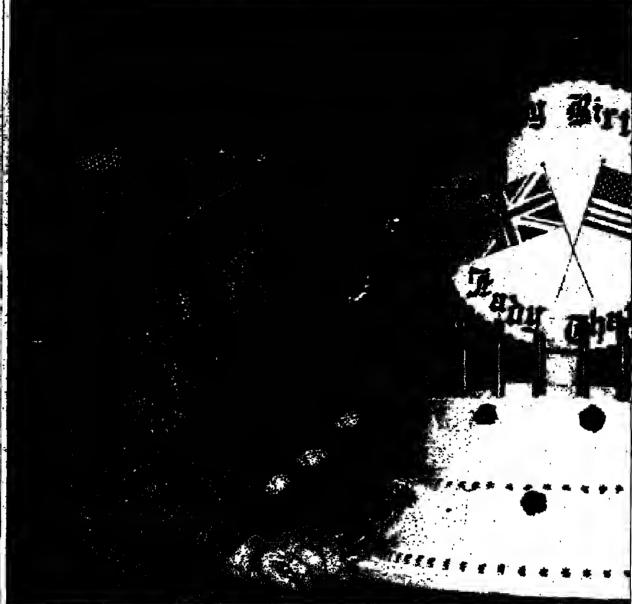
Mr Bouchard also visited Washington but had a frosty re-ception. While saying formally that Quebec's future is for Quebeckers to decide, US officials including President Bill Clinton have made it clear they wish Canada to be stable and united. Last week, the Secretary of State. Warren Christopher, went a step further, saying that Quebec would have a tough

time negotiating trade deals. For an independent Quebec, French recognition would have an important moral impact. But the separatists' first priority for formal recognition is the US. It will also be crucial for Quebec's industries to gain access to the North American Free Trade Agreement, an admission that the US and Canadian governments have

said will not be automatic. Quebec has also said it will apply to the World Trading Organisation and that it would like to become a partner in both Nato and Norad, the North America Air Defence pact. Financial markets have con-

tinued to react to polls that place the "Yes" side with a narrow lead over the federalist side. On Monday, the Canadian dollar had lost a full cent against the US dollar, though yesterday the drop had slowed, levelling out at about 72.86 cents. Three oew polls will be re-leased later this week which

nit in Halifax in June. bargaining position with the This is in contrast to France's rest of Canada but who do not want to separate.



صكتا من الاعل

Back in the limalight: Lady Thatcher blowing out candles on a belated birthday cake Photograph: Mike Theiler/Reuter

#### US right toasts Thatcher's 70th

RUPERT CORNWELL Washington

What with Irish-American pickets across the street yelling "Thatcher murderer", flashlights popping and a mix of celebraties that included the US Speaker Newt Gingrich; Nancy Reagan and Barbara Walters, she might still have been the resident of Number 10. In fact it was just a belated 70th birthday thrash—but as far as the American right is coocerned. Margaret Thatcher was.

it was at Union Station here on Mooday night.

Six hundred guests came to pay their devotions, paying \$1,000 (£600) a plate and \$15,000 a table for the privilege of being in the same room as the co-slayer of the Evil Empire. The Philip Morris tobacco group, "proud sponsors of this event", reportedly produced another \$1m, leaving the US-based Margaret Thatcher Foun-dation ahead oo the night by \$2m or more.

But most of all they wanted is, and will forever be Prime to hear the Iron Lady, and Minister. In Britain these days, only by savaging her successor Royald Reagan, her partner in John Major can she gain attention; in the United States, saint of the New Republican her very presence sets conserRevolution, but now largely vative hearts atremble. And so confined by Alzheimer's disease

to his home in California, "Reagan and Thatcher", gushed Bar-bara Walters, are "names linked together for ever, like Rogers and Astaire." There was even a statue of them under construction in Tirana, Albania, Ms

Walters said, named simply "The Liberators". Decked out in jewels and red chiffon, Nancy paid tribute from both the Reagans. "Dear Margaret", she said, "you have been so much to us in so many ways. You were and are America's finest friend. Ronnie and I will cherish your friendship

As she ended her speech, the make a toast in huge images flashed on two video screens on either side of the podium.

Mrs Thatcher replied in kind, describing the former president as "the secood most important man", and speaking of her pride at being the smaller half of the Reagan-Thatcher relationship. It was "his decision to call the Soviet Union by its proper name, the evil empire," that helped "bring that evil

empire crashing down". And so the evening ended drenched in oostalgia, a cross between the Lord Mayor's banquet and Oscars night in Hollywood. There was a musical interlude too, a medley of hits from Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber, the bards of

#### WASHINGTON DAYS

#### Bigger is better in the land where fat is a felonious issue

convicted cheque-forger, had been ordered by a court in Wichita, Kansas, to pay \$11,000 (nearly £7,000) in restitution. but said his 36-stone weight made it impossible for him to find a job and earn the money. Fine, said the judge, Mr Younkin could go oo probation - on condition he lost weight. Alas, he was sighted once too often around town indulging in doughnuts, pizza and french fries. He was weighed in the scales of justice and found wanting. Instead of slimming down, he had added 20th. The law would have no mercy, and this time Mr Younkin was given Kansas' maximum term for

violating a probation agree-ment, three months in jail. His lawyers are appealing, on the grounds that weight and diet are personal matters which are not for a court to decide, and that therefore Mr Younkin's spell behind bars is "cruel and unusual punishment" in breach of the eighth amendment of the Constitution. More to the point, though, if obesity were a prison offence. America's over-crowded jails would long since

have come apart at the seams. For once the evidence of my own eyes and government statistics agree. Americans are get-ting fatter and fatter. A third of adults are overweight, and according to a new federal survey, 11 per cent of all children are too - more than double the pro-

portion 25 years ago. Taking their cue from their parents, children too exercise less, spend more time in front of the TV or computers and eat too much. And who is to blame them? The hardest thing to find in this country is a modest snack. Take the American "sandwich, oot to be confused with the dainty European concoction

of the same oame. A sandwich here is a monument to America's love for bigness - so thick you cannot get your month around it without sending part of the cootents into your lap. Beg the man behind the deli bar they played Memory, but oot looks at you as if you were some Don't Cry For Me, Argentina. wimpish idiot. But sandwiches Even nostalgia has its limits. have nothing on the fast food

Spare a thought for Arthur Younkin, jailed this mouth for being too fat. Mr Younkin, a industry, which spends \$36bn (£22.8bn) a year oo advertising ever vaster servings to an ever more corpulent population.

An item in the Washington Post last week provided some as-tonishing facts. Remember the curvy old bottle of Coca-Cola? It contained six and a half fluid ounces. The latest monstrosity from the 7-11 grocery chain is the Double Guip, offering near-ly 10 times as much, 64 ounces of coke, equivalent to 800 calories. The diameter of regular pizzas creeps steadily higher, now at around 12 inches. But nothing quite matches the 3lh porterhouse steaks offered by Morton's Steakhouse of Chicago. The Morton's in Washington claims to sell five to 10 a night, and everything gets caten. The reason for the onward

march of excess is said to be the concept of "value". But instead of offering more for the same price, why not the same for less? And the problem reaches the summit of the state. True, George Bush famously loathed broccoli, but even so was as thin as a rake. Not so the 42nd President. "We do fibres and stuff," Hillary Clinton once said in reply to a question about the family eating habits, and for formal entertaining she has replaced high calorie classical French with treody Californian. But husband Bill, as he is the first

to admit, seldom fails to warm to a pile of junk food. So what happened to the get fit and slim craze? It was always strictly a middle- and upper-class phenomenon. Once upon a time wheo only the wealthy could afford a full plate, being fat meant being rich. The poor as a rule were thin. In today's US, it is the other way round. And even the stigma of obesity is fading. One poll has found that only 36 per

> attractive. A decade ago, the figure was 55 per cent. Nooe of which answers Mr Younkin's problem: how to earn the mooey to pay off his deht. Apparently a New Jersey freak show offered him a job - but on condition he gained 200lb and signed a five-year contract. Even doughouts didn't stretch to that

cent of people feel that fat is un-

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As final proof, we'll conclude with two more road testers' gems from the 620ti's press-cuttings file.

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Violence.

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#### Violence forces NZ to scrap Waitangi ceremony

DAVID BARBER Wellington:

The New Zealand government yesterday scrapped the annual oational-day celebrations at Waitangi after violent demon-strations by Maori extremists this year. The 6 Fehruary cele-hration, a public holiday, is supposed to mark the coming together of Maoris and Europeans, who signed the Treaty of Waitangi, the nation's founding document, in 1840.

Chiefs of 46 Maori tribes signed the treaty, which ceded sovereignty to Queen Victoria in return for guaranteed "full, exclusive and undisturbed" possession of their lands. In recent vears militant Maoris, campaigning under the slogan "The treaty is a fraud, have mounted increasingly angry protests at Waitangi Day celebrations, demanding return of land confiscated over the past 150 years. In 1990 a demonstrator threw a black T-shirt at the Queen. who was attending the celebrations during a royal tour.

At this year's ceremonies protesters tried to set fire to the Treaty House, the country's most historic building, spat at the Governor-General, Dame Catherine Tizard, and trampled the New Zealand flag. The cel-



Maori anger: A warrior, Tame iti, spitting at officials during this year's Waitangi ceremony

caved in to Maori radicals.

"The government has shown

gutlessness and has surren-

dered to a few spitting, flag-stomping thugs at Waitangi by shifting the ceremony to the se-

curity of the Governor-General's mansion," said Mike

Moore, a former Labour prime

A Maori MP, Tau Henare,

when protesters ran up a Maori claims that the government had said: "The event has mana, the have the steel to return, what

event has spirituality. The treaty. was signed at Waitangi. Waitwith its ongoing talk of part-nership with the Maoris." angi Day should be at Waitangi." Pita Parnone, or use and Tokerau tribe, which hosts the days before the Queen, who arrives in here on Monday, is due to sign legislation giving land and cash compensation to the Tainui tribe for land confiscat-Waitangi celebrations, said the tribe wanted government representatives there in February so that it could apologise for this ed by the Crown in 1865. The year's demonstratioos. "I Bill includes, for the first time, thought the government would a formal apology to Maoris.

صكنا من الاجل

#### Menem sees UK visit as step closer to Falklands goal

PHEL DAVISON Latin America Correspondent

The meeting between John Major and the Argentine President, Carlos Menem, on the fringes of the United Nations New York birthday party, has been billed in Buenos Aires as a giant leap and a "break-through" for Mr Menem.

Not only did he get his longtime wish - an invitation, though hardly a hearty one, and deliberately imprecise, to visit London - but the President sees every step closer to Britain as a step closer to gaining the Falk-land Islands peacefully.

"Menem's got his visa," said a headline in yesterday's daily Pagina 12. "Next year to London," said another paper, Clarin, which quoted Mr Menem as saying after the meeting that "we hope that some time in the not too distant future, sovereignty [over the is-lands] might be discussed."

Although London and Buenos Aires stressed sovereignty was neither on nor near the table in New York, most Falklanders believed it was most definitely on Mr Menem's mind. Many expressed fears that the Prime Minister may be worn down by Mr Menem's slick style and that he may head down "the appeasement road."

"We always believe there are hidden agendas at the highest level," said an islander and former councillor, Terry Peck. "I doo't think Major's a very strong character but there's no question in our minds that Menem's a shrewd operator, and [Argentine Foreign Minister Guido] di Tella likewise. They've played on our nerves

for many years."
Mr Menem has asked Mr di Tella to "persuade" the Falklanders that Argentine sovereignty would be in their best interests, according to a gov-ernment source in Buenos Aires. One idea would be for joint sovereignty "until the islanders get used to the idea and realise that we have their best interests at heart," the

Another idea, publicly acknowledged by Mr Menem and Mr di Tella, is to offer the islanders' "compensation", which was last estimated at \$500,000 (£310,000) per head for the 2,000 islanders, in return for accepting Argentine sovereignty. The Falklanders have

source said.

ejected the idea.
"Sovereignty is oot negotiable," Mr Peck said. "I'd nev-er, ever, support joint flags and I think I can speak for 90 percent of islanders. There's oo way people here would trust the month, they said.

Argentinians. But if there's oil in these waters, it's money that's going to talk. When oil is involved, 2,000 people don't count for one iota."

Mr Menem has been pushing aggressively for closer ties with Britain this year, particularly since his re-election to a second term in May. As far back as February, the daily *Clarin* said British Gas officials were pressuring Mr Major to invite Mr

Menem to London. The newspaper said that British Gas and the Argentine national oil company, YPF, had reached a "verbal" agreement on oil exploration in Falklands waters. Confirming the deal, Mr Menem said that "this delivers enormous possibilities and advances to Argentina in the conflict for the Malvinas [Falklands]." London and Buenos Aires played down the oil deal report at the time, but in September the two governments signed an agreement for oil

prospecting and exploration.
British diplomats said that Mr Major and Mr Menem had agreed also that experts from both countries should reach an agreement on regulating squid catches in the waters between the Falklands and Argentina. An initial meeting would be held in Bueoos Aires next

#### Aum cult doctor admits making sarin nerve gas

independence flag and police told the Prime Minister, Jim

Bolger, they could not guaran-tee his safety.

Yesterday the Deputy Prime Minister, Doo McKinnon, said

next year's celebrations would

be held under strict security at

Government House in Welling-

ton and be barred to protesters.

RICHARD LLOYD PARRY

Thousands of people, including several hundred journalists, gathered outside a Tokyo court yesterday as the first defendant in the subway oerve gas attack went on trial for murder. Tomomasa Nakagawa, a semor member of the Anm Shinri Kyo doomsday cult, admitted manufacturing the type of sarin

Aum guru, Shoko Asahara. which is due to begin tomorrow, was thrown into doubt earlier in the week after his lawyer, Shoji Yokoyama, was involved in a car accident. Although he suffered only minor injuries, Mr Yokovama was ordered to spend two weeks in bed, provoking suspicions that the cult was trying to delay the trial. However, court officials confirmed the lawyer will attend, and that the most sensational trial in Japan's recent history

Sex-change boy can be a male

Bogota (Reuter) - A Colombian boy who underwent a sex change operation to become a female without his consent when he was seven years old has won the right to be identified as a male, judicial sources said

yesterday.
The boy, oow aged 14, underwent the sex change and was treated with female hormones at the request of his parents in April 1987, six-and-a-half years after a dog destroyed his geni-tals. He rebelled against the idea of being changed into a woman, however, and filed a suit last year demanding that he be en-titled to choose his own sexual identity and rid himself of the girl's name his parents gave him. The Constitutional Court

ruled in the boy's favour on Monday and ordered that the Colombian Institute of Family Welfare assist him in any way possible to overcome his emasculation and identity crisis.

There was no word on whether doctors would seek to reverse the effects of the hormone treatment the boy re-ceived or close the artificial vagina surgeons created for him.



Several Arm members have already been sentenced on lesser indictments but yesterday's charges against Dr Nakagawa, Asahara's personal doctor, were the first to touch directly on the sarin killings. For the first time, prosecutors described in detail the events leading to the attack, which killed 11 people and injured thousands of others on 20

Dr Nakagawa, 32, pleaded The central trial, that of the tempted monder, but admitted. nanufacturing the deadly gas at the personal request of his leader and former patient. "Asa-hara ordered the production of samin mid-March," he told the Tokyo District Court. "It is not incorrect to say that I produced the sarin, and sealed the liquid in plastic bags. I knew. sarin was a dangerous chemical, but I was oot aware of any conspiracy to release it."

hara tried to plunge the central part of Tokyo into "ut-ter turmoil" to head off police raids, the prosecutor, Tadahiko

Miyazaki, told the three judges. The attack was aimed at police investigating the disappearance of a Tokyo man believed to have been abducted by Ann in February. The cult learned of police plans to raid its commune on the slopes of Mt Fuji, and on the night of 19 March a team lead by Dr Nakagawa produced the liquid sarin in the labora-

Five kilograms were scaled not guilty to murder and at- into polythene bags which were carried onto subway trains the following morning. As the trains converged on Kasumigaseki station, yards from the National Police Agency, government ministries and the Tokyo District Court, the bags were pierced with sharpened umbrellas.

Dr Nakagawa admitted strangling an Aum follower who was accused of treachery by Asahara,



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The Rev

Eighties and Nineties, a period

churches was going through

#### **Phil Sidey**

As the Head of the BBC Network Production Centre at Birmingham, Phil Sidey was the man who converted Pebble Mill from a structural white elephant into a thriving source of daytime television. He was the first manager of Radio Leeds and played a leading role in establishing lively local broad-casting on a financial shoestring. He was a programme innovator with a spate of lively ideas and an abrasive tongue which tended to upset some of his collcagues. He was also an accomplished public speaker and a successful chairman of the Royal Television Society.

Sidey's first experience of broadcasting was in Austria immediately after the Second World War. As a sergeant in the Royal Artillery he was in charge of the Army Broadcasting Station at Klagenfurt for three years. He then had a variety of journalistic posts including three years with the Associated Press before joining the BBC's Ex-ternal News Service as a sub-editor in 1956. In 1963 he transferred to Television News. becoming a Duty Editor in 1964.

In 1966 Harold Wilson's Labour government decided to inaugurate eight experimental local radio stations. They were only to broadcast on VHF and their meagre annual revenue of £50,000 for each station had to cover staff salaries and all programme expenses. That sum was not to be a charge on either the BBC licence income or the rates. It had to be

found from other local sources. In 1967 Sidey was selected to manage the new local radio station at Leeds. His application was a surprise, for many thought that he had abandoned radio for television, and be had no connections with the north of England. But he was ambitious to run his own operation and he feared be had made too many enemies in television news ever

to reach its top position. Sidey had a great flair for publicity, including selfpublicity. In order to get the name of the experimental station regularly mentioned in the local press, albeit only on the sports page, he bought a grey-hound and named it Radio Leeds, 24 Hours, the television magazine of which Sidev had been the news producer before moving to Leeds, sent a camera team to make a sequence about the programmes he planned to introduce. One was a record request show called Bring-a-Disc in which, because his library was limited, listeners had to bring their own records to be played. Sidey was filmed outside the door of Radio Leeds urging favourite discs. The film was shown on the day the statioo opened in June 1968.

Sidey recruited a team of Yorkshire journalists to provide a valuable service of local news. The naïve Idea of the Government that provincial newspapers would gladly provide the new

experimental radio stations with copies of the local news they had gathered for their own use had

soon evaporated.
One of his innovations was The Only BBC Programme the Money Can Buy. Listeners would telephone the studio and demand a favour, promising in exchange to pay a sum of money to any charity of their choice. This worried the authorities in Broadcasting House, who feared it might upset the central scheme that ensured fairness among charity appeals. Another was Teenage Week, presented entirely by schoolchildren, caused Sidey to be duhbed "Fagin" and accused of

exploiting cheap child labour. In 1969 Sidey wrote a memorable article for the New Sutesman, then influential with Harold Wilson's government. on making community radio ef-



Acerbic wit: Skiey at Pebble Mill

fective. Frank Gillard, the former managing director of BBC Radio, said that Sidey's points convinced the entire Labour hierarchy of the success of the BBC's local radio experiment.

In a lively book, Hello, Mrs Butterfield . . . , published last year, Sidey also told the story of Radio Leeds. He described in detail the work of creating cheap local radio. "The rediscovery of radio and the infliction of new communication ideas on to the city of Leeds," he declared, "was surrounded by so much good-humour and lively, not to say outrageous, behaviour, that the station soon became dubbed 'Radio Irreverent'.'

outrageous, behaviour caused him trouble with the authorities at Broadcasting House on various occasions. After Radio Leeds he worked as the Deputy Editor of Nationwide until 1972, when he became Head of the Network Production Centre at

Birmingham.

The Pebble Mill complex, newly opened but planned some 10 years earlier and built at a cost of £8m, has a marble entrance hall with a vast glass foyer which is reached via a footbridge. But by the Seventies visitors mostly came by car and had to park at the back of the building Sidey's appointment coincided with the Government's de-restriction of broadcasting hours and he seized the opportunity of putting Pebble Mill on the broadcasting map by offering to mount a live daily magazine from the idle space in the glass fover. The Londoo icians had grave misgivings about the lighting and acoustics. But the difficulties were overcome, and Pebble Mill at One became the first important daily current affairs programme to be produced outside London for the BBC. Viewers were surprised to see elephants participating and studio guests arriving by parachute.

Sidey insisted that every new programme originating in Birm-ingham should carry the name Pebble Mill in its title. As his successor, David Waine, put it. "He had a deep belief in the importance of regional broadcasting being independent of London and he pursued that belief with an acerbic and occasionally wounding wit." It was Sidey's defiant independence of London that led to his premature retirement in 1983.

The Royal Television Society founded in 1927, was originally a group of television enthusiasts intent on furthering this new scientific discovery. 11 consisted entirely of engineers. In 1978 Sidey was the first nontechnician to be elected chairman. With the vigorous support of Sir Huw Wheldon, who succeeded the Duke of Kent as President of the RTS in 1979, Sidey threw open the society's doors to programme people and made it representative of the wbole television industry.

Sidey was chairman of the RTS for four years, twice the normal span. His speech on the retirement of Wheldon included a translation of Madame de Pompadour's words "Après nous le déluge" as "After us that shower takes over."

Phil Sidey was a trim, athletic man who loved walking along the Pennine Way. He was on a walking tour of the Peak District at the time of his death.

Leonard Miall

Philip John Sidey, broadcaster. born London 11 January 1926; staff, BBC External Service News 1956-60, Television News 1963-67; Station Manager, Radio Leeds 1967-70; Deputy Editor, Nation-wide 1970-72; Head of Network Production Centre, Pebble Mill, Birmingham 1972-83; Chairman, Royal Television Society 1978-82: President, Birmingham Press Club 1979-81; author of Hello, Mrs Butterfield ... 1994; hut also architect, historian. Saint-Martin-de-Canigou and market and phomarical 1951 Daphne Finn (two sons, one daughter): died Castleton, Derbyshire 15 October 1995. Hut also architect, historian as well as topographer – and it was this topographer – and it was this rare combination of qualities rare combination of qualities high. I doubt if the Golden Al
Wim Swaan, architect and photographer: born Kokstad, South Mont Saint-Micbel from on Africa 6 September 1927; died high. I doubt if the Golden Al
New York City 1 October 1995.



#### Wim Swaan

Wim Swaan, the architect and architectural historian, was especially known in Britain as a photographer of genius, whose architect's eye brought new meaning to buildings and artefacts in every part of the world. Swaan was born in South

Africa and studied architecture at the University of Witwatersrand in Johannesburg; he later also studied at Yale and Harvard. He practised in South Africa for a time, but most of his career as an architect was spent in the United States, and he became a US citizen in 1966. He specialised in hospital design, and was well known for his work on hospitals in New York and as far afield as Alaska. Latterly he was Director of Design at Architecture for Health, Sci-

Meanwhile, from 1960 on. Swaan provided photographs of exquisite quality for a long succession of books - many of them originally published in London who helped Swaan to convert a hobby into a second profession. They ranged from Japan, Tibet and Egypt to Western Europe. Swaan was an artist in all he did:

ence and Commetce, based in

Tarrytown, New York; from

this post he retired in 1994.

which gave his work its special mark.

I myself first worked with him when Elek asked me to write an introduction to The Gothic Cathedral (1969), which was otherwise wholly Swaan's work, text and photographs alike - one of five books he wrote as well as illustrated. 1 was deeply impressed by his work, and sug-gested the collaboration which eventually emerged as The Monastic World (1974). To make this a true collaboration, I proposed to accompany Swaan on a small part of his monastic itinerary. He doubted my patience, but genially agreed to put it to the test. We started at Maria Laach in the Rhineland, waiting two hours or more for the breeze to calm down and allow him to take a now famous picture of the abbey framed in leaves. He had infinite patience and persis-

tence, which made it possible for him to realise his visions. His photographs in The Monastic World threw floods of light on the architectural and religious and their patrons; their bizarre, dramatic sites have never been revealed with so much insight and panache as in his pic-tures of the hill-top site of

tar in Sant'Ambrogio in Milan bas ever looked more beautiful

than in his rendering of it. In the early 1980s I planne A History of Conville and Caius College, and lured Swaan to Cambridge to take the photographs for it by planning Oxford and Cambridge with Roger Highfield as my Oxford col-league and William Davies of the Cambridge University Press as our publisher. Roger Highfield and I found the task of helping Swaan to the remoter corners of our two cities at once entertaining and exacting: we were rewarded by some weeks of Swaan's delightful company and by the exquisite quality of the result.

Even then - though lively and enial and capable of a gruelling day's work - he was not in good health; later he deteriorated further, and died still well under 70. Those of us who knew him vell have lost a warm and delightful friend - but his work will live on, to inspire future generations of architectural hisde bue at raphers, and to illuminate above all the borderline where history and art history meet. Christopher Brooke

Wim Swaan, architect and pho-

Bernadette Hingley to following him." Three years later, in 1974, she was on Iona Bernadette Hingley had a suc-cession of public roles in the "and understood that if I were a man I would be ordained? when the participation of women in society and in the She studied at St John's Theo-

logical College, Nottingham

was a lay worker in Christ-church, Abingdon, and was engreat transformation and was the subject of passionate concouraged to study a further year to become a deaconess. flict. She was a schoolteacher, a lay church worker, a deaconess, a theological college teacher, a deacon and finally, That year, 1980-81, was spent as one of the first three female students at Ripon College, Cudlast year, a priest, one of the first desdon, near Oxford. After orgroup of women in Britain to be dination as a deaconess she hecame the first woman on the She worked as a volunteer in staff of Cuddesdon as it made Africa, and in the Church of the transition to a theological England was employed fullcollege with a mixed commutime and part-time, paid and unmity. She was ordained deacon in 1988 and then finally priest, paid. She was also a dedicated family person and friend. In all

of these roles, public and private, she was a model for many. and often had a lasting influence in a very short time. In the Church she had the gift of takare truly ready." ing jobs until then not associated with women and somehow transforming both the job and the perception of it, so that most people ended up thinking not only that it was right for a woman to do it but that the role bad been enhanced in the process. In the four years since she was diagnosed as suffering from ovarian cancer, her way of facing suffering and death with realistic faith has been an extraordinary experience for those who witnessed it. She was the third daughter of Sir Paul Bryan DSO MC MP and Betty Bryan. She deeply

ough, of her bappy childhood and always kept strong links there. When she was 12 ber mother hecame ill with manic ordination and a range of activities in Balsall Heath. depression which lasted eight years till she died - a long agony that left a deep mark on Bernadette. She attended Duncombe Park and Benenden schools, studied Social Sciences at Bedford College, London University, and then went for two years' International Voluntary Service to a Roman

Catholic convent school in Bamenda, Cameroon. Africa was a turning-point. On 22 May 1994 she gave her first sermon after her ordination as priest, in St Luke's, Bristol Street, Binningham, and looked back over 23 years. She said that in Africa she encountered the risen Christ - "I knew he was. true and real and gave my life

loved the wild Yorkshire coun-

try, at Sawdon, near Scarbor-



part of a group of women aged 25 to 71 and of all sorts of backgrounds. "There is a great gift in waiting," she said. "Women When she was working parttime in the West Slough Team Ministry she met and married

the Rev Robert Hingley, in 1983, and they had a remarkable partnership in ministry. The rest of Bernadette's life was spent in two tough inner-city parishes in Birmingham. Rob became vicar of St Paul's, Balsall Heath, in 1983, based in an ecumenical community centre. Their daughters, Elizabeth and Catherine, were born there, and for their mother opened up new relationships with the largely Asian and Afro-Caribbean local community. Bernadette also slowly developed her ministry in networks of friends, chaplaincy work at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, tutoring women training for

In 1991, after a sabbatical year, Rob Hingley became vicar of St Luke's Church, Bristol Street, Birmingham, and Bernadette was licensed there too. Within months ber cancer was diagnosed. Surgery and treatment helped, but in April this year the cancer appeared

again. In facing death, and the leaving of her husband, young children, father, sisters and many close friends, it was as if she poured berself out to others in talking frankly, listening, praying, writing letters making phone calls, saying goodbye. More needs to be told about this time in her life, and she had a great desire to write about it, which she continued to do into her last week. When I talked about someone else who was dying she pulled me up: "Not dying, living." She lived even more yibrantly in the face of

Bernadette Bryan, schoolteacher, priest: born Sowerby Bridge, Yorkshire 26 September 1948; ordained deaconess 1981, deacon 1988, priest 1994; married 1983 Robert Hingley (two daughters): died Birmingham 20 October

#### **Gavin Ewart**

Party.



Ewart: 'Shall I die?'

Gavin Ewart and 1 were a simultaneously precocious pair, writes David Gascoyne [further to the obituary by Anthony Thwaite, 24 October]. We were born in the same year in the middle of the First World War. We first met in 1933. Early that year Geoffrey Grigson had founded New Verse and began to hold parties for his most promising contributors - among others Norman Cameron,

Kathleen Raine and Charles Madge (for me the most memorable) - in the garden of his house in Keats Grove, Hampstead.

At that time Gavin Ewart was still at Wellington, where be became friends with the sympathetically subversive Esmond Romilly, nephew of Clementine Churchill, who absconded from the militaristic school soon after, to found the riot-rousing

magazine Out of Bounds, which he distributed to most of the public schools in Britain from a shabby old banger. Esmond found a base in a room above David Archer's Parton Street Booksbop, at that time a rendezvous for most poets and writers of a definitely left-wing tendency. This 1 mention because of the significant fact that Gavin was seldom if ever to be seen there after he had left

Wellington and occasionally came up to London. Not that Gavin could for a moment bave been suspected of harbouring Conservative learnings. He had continued to be entirely apolitical. He would satirise the Lefties of the day for the solemnly pompous earnestness of their dedication to the

I have on my favourite shelf the paperback of Late Pickings

(1987) which Gavin Ewart inthe end of the Thatcher decade scribed for me. I wish I could quote from such superb examples of his maturest vein as "Making Love to Women", in which Auden, Spender, Isherwood and Yeats are cited in the 14 lines of what does not appear to be a sonnet. "Putney OAPs m 1983" comments compas-sionately on a scene of mindless

"Advertising Elegiacs" recalls the early favourite celebrating "Love at the Office". Sadly, the third part of this collection is devoted to obituary verse of a characteristically mordant order. Saddest

of all is "Shall 1 Die? (A Critical Exercise)". No doubt he will regard his own funeral with a straight-faced incipient

Dr Friedrich S. Brodnitz, died New York City 19 October, aged 96. Ear, nose and throat specialist who treated leading US opera singers, broadcasters and politicians. Pioneer of the "chewing method", a regime of exercises to strengthen and realign the throat muscles.

1995.

Charley Boswell, died Birmingham, Alabama 22 October, aged 78. Though blinded in action during Second World War, be learnt golf and founded the Boswell Celebrity Golf Classic.

#### violence that the media have made increasingly popular since hilarity.

Regina v Cowan; R v Gayle; R v Ricciardi; Court of Appeal (Lord Taylor of Gosforth, Lord Chief Justice, Mr Justice Turner and Mr

Justice Latham): 12 October 1995

Section 35 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, which altered the law in relation to a defendant in a criminal trial whn did not give evidence, did not abolish the right to silence but permitted a jury, in a case where the prosecution had established a case to answer, to draw an adverse inference from the defendant's silence.

The Court of Appeal (Criminal Division) allowed the appeals of Donald Cowan and Ricky Gale against conviction and dismissed Carmine Ricciardi's appeal against conviction.

In the first two appeals the appellants were tried shortly after section 35 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 came into force. Section 35 altered the law and permitted the jury to draw inferences from a defendant's failure to give evidence at his trial. The trial judge directed the jury about each appellant's silence. In the third appellant's trial the judge followed the judicial studies board's specimen di25 October 1995

must prove guilt beyond reasonable doubt.

and Garrett Byrne; David Jeffreys QC and Andrew Radcliffe; David Jeffreys QC and Susannah Farr (CPS) for the

should be made clear that the right of silence remained. It was not abolished by the section. As to inhibitions affecting a defendant's decision to testify or not, some existed before the

The argument that section 35 altered the burden of proof was misconceived. The prosecution had to establish a prima fucie case before any question of the defendant testifying was raised. The court or jury was prohibited by section 38(3) from convicting solely because rectioo in summing up to the jury ahout the defendant's defendant's silence. The ef-

fect of section 35 was that the court or jury might regard the inference from failure to testify as a further evidential factor m support of the prosecution case. It could not be the only factor to justify a conviction and the totality of the evidence

The plain words of section 35 did not justify confining its operation to exceptional cases. It would be open to a court to decline to drawn an adverse in-ference from silence at trial and for a judge to direct or advise a jury against drawing such inference. But there would need either to be some evidential basis for doing so or some ex-

ceptional factors making that a fair course to take. The specimen direction suggested by the judicial studies board was a sound guide. The court highlighted certain es-sentials. The judge would have told the jury that the burden of proof remained on the prosecution throughout and what the required standard was. It was necessary for the judge to make clear that the defendant was entitled to remain silent. An inference from fail-

ure to give evidence could not

fore the jury must be satisfied that the prosecution had established a case to answer before drawing any inferences

If, despite any evidence relied on to explain his silence or in the absence of such evidence, the jury concluded the silence could only sensibly be attrib-uted to the defendant's having no answer or none that would stand up to cross-examination. they might draw an adverse inference.

such reasons. In the first two appeals the judges had to cope with the new provisions without guidance. Their summing-ups were defective and the appeals must be allowed. In the third appeal the judge's direction could not be criticised and the appeal was

#### DEATHS

BLACKBURN: On 21 October 1995, peacefully but suddenly in Kent and Canterbury Hospital, William Henry Blackburn, aged 77, of lickham, formerly of Walton-upon-Thames. Beloved husband of the late Dhanlarum Maganlof Blackburn, much-loved father of Nigel and Jane and advived grandfather of Angus and William. A Service of Thanksgiving will be held at the Parish Clurch of St John, Lickham, near Canterbury. St John, Ickham, near Canterbury Kent, on Friday 27 October at 2pg Denations, if desired to Northbourne Ward, K. & C. Hospital, c.o. J. Dilnot Smith & Son, Funcial Directors, Bea-con Lane, Woodnesborough, Kent.

HINGLEY: The Rev Bernadette Ince HINGLEY: The Rev Bernadette (nee Brvan) aged 47, on 20 October at 51 Mary's Hospier, Birmingham, after a long and counspecus fight against cancer. Beloved wife of the Rev Robert Hundey and mother of Elizabeth and Catherme. Third daughter of Sir Paul Bryan and the late Betty Bryan and the late Betty Bryan and wister to Elizabeth and Fehraty. Funerial Service at 51 Luke's Church, Bristol Street, Birmingham, no Wednesday I November at 12 noon, Dynations to the Bernadette Hingley Brut (to assist women seeking we lev Tirut (to assist women seeking or-dination). Details from Wheatley and Sons 0121-440 1020. A service of thanksgring will be held at All Saints Church, Broupston, near Scarbor-ough, Yorkshire, at a later date.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS
The Queen holds an investment of Buckingham Palace, and altenda a reception on the James's Pilace and altenda a reception on the James's Pilace prices by the Observa's Goldeges on Irefund (Queen & Conversal) Bellian and the University Colleges of Cork and Caleston to mask their Sessimonteniary. The Prince of Wales work the Oscorloog Unit of the Western Content in Securities From Business Trust, Immerbed the Bastal Bank of Scotland's new whence in support of the trust at lot Schadew Square, Industryth, what the Democratic Resource Coster, Papiles, to mark the start of the Allied Purchar Democratia Intitative on Scotlands and results Stockholm Creasent, Pasies, is never tendents of the men who were screen, of Sectional and results Stockholm Creasent, Pasies, is never tendents of the men who were screen in Sectional and results Stockholm Creasent, Pasies, is never tendents of the men who were screens of late area were fundamental and Parisons.

\*\*Management Column Alexandria's Rayar Surroug Copys in the Green Hall of the Reval Hospital's belien, Lendon SWS. The Bullian Reval Hospital's belien, Lendon SWS. The Bullian

#### Births. **Marriages** & Deaths

LANNON: Suddenly, on Saturday 21 October 1995, Sarah Helen, beloved wife of Lawrence Dickinson and dar-ing mother of Alexandra and Sian, and a dearly loved daughter and sis-ter. Service at St Mary's Church, Mer-tion Park, Wimbledon, on Friday 27 October at 12 noon. Flowers or do-pations if medicand to the Nethernations, if preferred, to the National Childbirth Trust, co F.W. Paine, 26 Crown Lane, Morden, Surrey SM4 5BL, 0181-542 1214.

Amouncements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Vedding anniversaries, Is Memoriam) should be sent in writing to the Gazette Elitor, The Independent, I Canada Square, Canary Wharf, Lundon E14 5DL, telephoned to 0171-393 2011 or faxed to 0171-293 2010, and are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT entra). OTHER Gazette atmonacements (notices, funcof the control of the

## of Glowenser, President, St Barthelamew's Hospital, occumpaned by The Duchess of Glowerstea, attends a concert in and of the hospital et the Barbean Courcil Italk, London EC2. The Duths of Rent, Vice-Chairman, British Courtes Trade Burd, opens the Eastern Counties Newspapers Print Centre, St Andrews Business Park, Thouge St Andrews, Nortalk, with Lawrence South and Electro Monta Lai, Norwick, users Group Louis Lut, Hethel, Newsick, and attends a socration of the Union des Poires internationales, Lancader House, St James's Phon, London SW1.

Changing of the Guard
The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment
magnits the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards,
Harr, by Buttalon Sorts Guards mounts the
Queen's Guard, at Buchingham Polone, 11.30cm.

#### Birthdays

Ex-King Michael of Romania, 74; Sir Robert Andrew, former senior civil servant, 67; Lt-Gen Sir Henry Bevservant, 67; L1-Gen Sir Hemy Beverley, 60; Mr Henry Commager, historian, 93; Miss Juliet Fisher, dancer
and teacher, 54; Mr Martin Gilbert,
historian, 59; Mr Michael Lynagh,
rugby player, 32; Sir David Mansel
Lewis, Lord-Lieutenant of Dyfed, 68;
Sir Juhn Mayhew-Sanders, business
consultant, 64; Mr Joe Mercer, former inches, 61; Miss Helen Reddy. mer jockey, 61; Miss Helen Reddy, singer, 53; Sir George Russell, chair-man, Independent Television Com-mission, 60; Mr Alan Smith, chief executive, Test and County Cricket Board, 59; Mr Keith Taylor, chairman and chief executive, Esso UK, 57; Miss Galina Vishnevskaya, operatic soprano, 69; Dame Gillian Wagner, chairman, Court of Governors, Thomas Coram Foundation for Chil-

iren, 68; Professor Donald Wiseman, Emeritus Professor of Assyriology,

#### Anniversaries

London University, 77.

Births: Thomas Bahington Macaulay, Baron Macaulay, historian and essayist, 1800; Johann Strauss the Younger, composer, 1825; Georges Bizet, composer, 1838; Pablo Ruiz Picasso, painter, 1881. Deaths: Geoffrey Chaucer, poet, 1400; Sir Charles Hallé (Carl Halle), conductor and pianist, 1895; Vincent Leonard Price, actor and writer 1993. On this day: the English de-feated the French at the Battle of Agincourt, 1415; the Charge of the Light Brigade took place, 1854; *Private Eye* was first published, 1961. Today is the wes in a published, 1801. Inday is the Feast Day of Saints Chrysanthus and Daria, Saints Crispin and Crispinian. The Forty Martyrs of Eng-land and Wales, Saints Fronto and George, St Gandennus of Brescia and St Richard Gwyn.

#### Lectures

Netional Gallery: Juliet Simpson, "Before Impressionism (iv): Paris and the Fläneur's Gaze, modernity in 19th-century French painting", Ipm. Tate Gallery: Mark Gisbourne. "Being in Itself and for Itself: Sartre-ism at Mid Century", 1pm.

#### Luncheons

The Queen The Queen, with Princess Margaret, held a lunch party yesterday at Buck-ingham Palace. The guests were: inginam Palace. The gmests were:
Dame Judi Dench; Mrs Par Prendy, Headleacher, Knowle Church of England School,
Solibult; Professor John Bourne, Director, Institute for Animal Health; Mr Philip Gilbert,
Head of Events Programmes, BSC Television;
Viscount Marchwood, vice-chairman and
mmaging director, Moet & Chandon (London); Professor Sir Keith Peters, Region Professor of Physics, Cambridge University: Mr
Peter Wright, Channato, Central Council of
Magistrates' Courts Congulitices.

#### Royal Society of Medicine

Professor Dennis Lincoln delivered the Ellison-Cliffe Lecture yesterday evening at the Royal Society of e, London W1, on the subject "Environmental Impact on Re-productive Health". Sir Donald Harrison, President, and Lady Harrison received the guests at a supper held afterwards.

**London Metal Exchange** Mr R.K. Bagri, chairman, London Metal Exchange Ltd, and the Board of Directors, hosted their annual dinner yesterday evening at Grosvenor House, London WI. Mr Brian Gilbertson, executive chairman of the Gencor Group, was the guest speak-er. Over 1,700 members and guests

4

#### Directions on defendant's silence at trial

#### LAW REPORT

silence. The appellants appealed on the ground that the trial judge in each case failed. to give a proper direction to the jury about when and what inferences could be drawn. Michael Mansfield QC and Michael Magarian, Michael Mansfield QC and Christopher Baur (Registrar of Criminal Appeals) for Cowan and Gayle; Brian Hurst (Roe & Co, Abergavenny) for Ricciardi; David Jeffreys QC

Lord Taylor CJ, giving the court's judgment, said that it

from silence.

It was not possible to anticipate all the circumstances in which a judge might think it right to direct or advise a jury against drawing an adverse inference. The rule against advocates' giving evidence dressed up as a submission applied. It could not be proper for a defence advocate to give to the jury reasons for his client's silence at trial in the absence of evidence to support

Ying Hui Tan, Barrister

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The bank manager is out - being replaced by an electronic service programmed to suit every lifestyle, says Nic Cicutti

#### Not so much a bank as a statement

More than 50 years after bank closed at 3.30 in the afternoon. Or inquiring about an ing societies first started to cater for the vast mass of the population, rather than a relatively small minority, a revolution has slowly begun to take place.

Forget the bad old days, when visiting the bank manager, or even his spotty assistant, was like booking a hospital or a doctor's appointment. When time off work had to be specially arranged because the

simmering angrily behind you. Saturday banking? Auto-

matic cheque book and state-ment requests? Stopping cheques or paying bills instantly? Arranging a mort-gage, taking out life insurance? Many of these services have increasingly become available over the past decade or so.

empowers us In one swoop the phone has done away with all the miseries and complications of the old system. In just a few seconds we can be in touch with someone who, it seems, has the answers to all our problems. Someone available day and

night, yet constantly polite, rea-sonably chatty, helpful - and impersonal. Banks, building societies, insurance companies
increasingly, everyone is leaping on board. Yesterday the Prudential, the UK's mightiest insurer, finally gave the phone its own seal of approval when

of a range of such services but

in the speed and the ease with

which we now have access to

them. The key to this transfor-

mation has been the telephone.

face-to-face conversations, of

angry confrontations, of time-

local branch. The telephone

The phone takes the place of

ing lunchtime treks to the

In one swoop, the telephone has done away with all the miseries and complications of the old system

it announced that it will launch a banking service offering mortgages and savings accounts. The service, set to start late next year, will be tar-geted not just at the Pru's existing 6 million policyholders but at all those others it believes are still waiting to take advantage of the telephone revolution.

Potential customers are now confronted with a choice. You like the traditional branch-based system? Any high street bank will oblige, usually with longer opening hours and a better queuing system than before. But if you are ready to dispense WITH THE DICCIDES OF A DYANCH SET up, there is now an attractive afternative. Ordering a cheque book, paying a credit card bill at 3am or moving money from a deposit to a current account is

easy by telephone banking. In truth, most of us don't need that level of freedom most of the time. As one phone banking executive explained, most people don't have the kind of lifestyle that forces them to make late-night calls to their bank. Daytime hours, plus the odd call during a break in Brookside, will do most of the time.

It is the sense of empower-

incendiary crackle whenever the

and dies completely

at around deadline time. The trouble, it seems, is caused by

city, thousands of

utility poles are

infested with

nests - not the ornithological kind but the electrical variety. Across the

Independent's foreign desk calls; it gets worse throughout the day

bank closed at 3.30 in the afternoon. Or inquiring about an account meant endless delays at not so much in the availability that prompts increasing number of the service if we wanted to, that prompts increasing number of the service if we wanted to, that prompts increasing number of the service if we wanted to, that prompts increasing number of the service if we wanted to, that prompts increasing number of the service if we wanted to, that prompts increasing number of the service if we wanted to, that prompts increasing number of the service if we wanted to, that prompts increasing number of the service if we wanted to, that prompts increasing number of the service if we wanted to, that prompts increasing number of the service if we wanted to, that prompts increasing number of the service if we wanted to, that prompts increasing number of the service if we wanted to, that prompts increasing number of the service if we wanted to, that prompts increasing number of the service if we wanted to, that prompts increasing number of the service if we wanted to, that prompts increasing number of the service if we wanted to, that prompts increasing number of the service if we wanted to, that prompts increasing number of the service if we wanted to the s bers to opt for the additional potential of phone banking.

Doing it by phone brings extra benefits to the customer, mainly in terms of cost savings In the case of First Direct, the first and largest phone banking service, it means the first £250 of any overdraft does not incur any charges. Mortgages are at least 0.5 per cent cheaper than

work to maintain, can compete

Meanwhile the traditional barriers between the various financial institutions are rapidly breaking down. It is possible to purchase travel insurance, mortgages, health insurance and travellers cheques, as well as traditional banking services, from a bank,

encompassing in what they offer consumers.

In part, this is the effect of competition. The convergence between the services offered by all these institutions means the phone has turned into the ultimate one-stop mechanism for all our financial needs. Telephone banking does not

have to be at the expense of the best bits of the old system. If one wants an old-style relationship with a bank branch, plus evening and weekend banking it is now possible to mix the two, at least with Lloyds and Barclays.

But the momentum is with telephone banking. Anyone wanting to join the phone banking revolution has a growing range of accounts to choose from as more and more financial institutions feel obliged to

Spearheading the phone banking revolution until

One of the costs has been the dramatic cut in numbers of banking staff over the past decade

recently has been First Direct. Set up by Midland Bank a little over five years ago, it now has more than 450,000 customers with more joining every week. But most banks and building societies, including Royal Bank of Scotland, Alliance & Leicester and Barclays have now set up similar systems.

For those who prefer com-puter banking, Bank of Scotland can provide them with the software needed to run an account via a PC. Alternatively, they will even supply a phone

One of the costs of all this has been the dramatic cut in numbers of banking staff over the past decade, with tens of thousands of jobs lost. Banking unions argue that the extra benefits for customers have been a by-product of the mass redundancies rather than the

Many customers are deaf to this argument, however. They have seen the future and it works, even if it is at the cost of employees' jobs. It is not hard to see why. The past few years have seen dramatic changes,

now taking place in the financial services sector. Banks and building societies

have been forced to come to terms with this change. There is even a "bank-speak" expression for it: delivery channels.

As one Barclays manager argues: "We have come to realise that there is no one way that people want to be dealt with." Nor is there one way in which they want to be dealt with for the rest of their lives.

first direct

It was Warren that started

it. Pald his mobile bill by phone when he got back from New York ... at 3 am.

sharp black number. I can

do anything with it, except

make the bed and wash the

Neat, huh? Neat card too ...

Rod, 35, advertising director, First Direct

This may mean dealing with some transactions over the phone, but going in to see a manager or financial adviser on

Banks are giving us the right to choose, with the telephone as one of the mechanisms for doing so. Perhaps, if there is one benefit from telephone banking it is that one word - choice. For many of us, it has been an agonisingly long





Rupert, 44, stockbroker, Coutts & Co Before i married Jemima, her father-in-law gave me a word of advice. Judge a book by its cover, he said. Coutts looks as smart as the service it offers. It's good enough for the Royal Family after all. Mind you, you have to

be £3,000 in credit to



Jack, 45, locksmith, West Bromwich Building Society I don't want anything fancy. I get paid on a Friday and spend about 30 quid that night. I wouldn't hear the last of it on Saturday if I hadn't got the money for .. her trip to Kwik Save, So I like somewhere that's local, no fuss, like. And building societies are better value, that's what I hear, any road.





HALIFAX Kate, 19, student, Hallfax

Mum said bank with Barclays, they've always been good. But I wanted to go to India, so i settled for a Halifax Maxim account with its £1.000 free overdraft facility. I blew it in one go! Mum said I shouldn't learn bad habits .. so early, but Dad said you're only young once.



NatWest worker, NatWest i don't have time to worry about my money:

there's not enough of it, for a start. I was put off Barclays as a student because they were investing in South Africa. Sometimes i wonder why I've stayed with NatWest. Bankers really know how to kick you when you're down. And they sometimes get my standing orders wrong.





Margaret, 70, former primary school teacher, and Roy, 72, retired civil servant, Lloyds We've been with our branch as long as the black horse has ... well, since we opened a joint account, anyway. We often meet the local manager at get-togethers. He's a nice chap. We like the personal touch. Our daughter says we're old-fashioned, but it's what you're used to ...



and screen to do the same thing

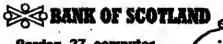
rationale for the changes.

both in terms of our expectations and the bitter competition



The COPERATIVE BANK Ofivia, 43, housewife,

Co-operative Bank I became a vegetarian five years ago after watching a TV programme. I do care for the environment. My daughter says I'm PC. So the Co-op's the bank for me: no animal testing, no dealing with oppressive regimes. Shame they don't have many branches.



Gordon, 27, computer **Scotland Screenphone** I'm what you might call a wired-up kinda guy. Seriously switched on. Screenphone is right for those of us in the cyberworld. It's a smart piece of gear, a bit like a lap-top with a phone attached. I'm definitely tempted by their softwarebased systems next.

Drawings by Brian Green



#### Beirut Diary

#### ROBERT FISK

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leases at trial

The Beirut government has been trying to clear away the martyrs. Technicolor biliboards of Hizboilah's suicide bombers have cluttered Ouzai and the airport road for more than a decade, but Rafiq Harin's cabinet has decided that illustrations of young men blowing up Israeli tanks in southern Lebanon are sending the wrong message to tourists and would-be foreign investors. So amid much muttering from Hizbollah – its leader, Sayed Hassan Nasrallah, archly suggested that the government had better follow its clean-up campaign by improving the phones and electricity supply – the posters have come down. A number can be seen stacked outside Hizbollah's mosque in Ouzai; goodbye, therefore, to Hassan Burro and his comrades, with their blood turning into tulips and their beads, quite literally, in the

But, propped majestically above the main road into Beirut from southern Lebanon, there remain the 20ft warrior of the 1860 war against the Christian Maronites and his modern-day, Kalashnikov-wielding equivalent, hero of a hundred battles (and quite a lot of throatcutting), both statues guarded by three sinister field guns. Beirutis dutifully ignore the symbolism. They don't even talk about "east Beirut" or "west Beirut" any more when I asked for new computer disks for the Independent in a Muslim-owned shop the other day I was told I could find them "in another part of town" - which meant, of course, that they could be found in a Christian-owned store.

A rather more serious clean-up has been going on in the restaurant trade. With Crossus-like generosity, Beirutis love to dine out, but new government inspections have listed a raft of fine cafés allegedly serving up food past its sell-by date. They include the splendid sea-front Spaggeteria,

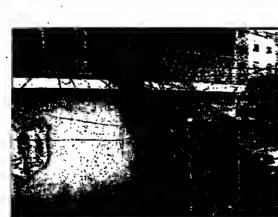
beloved of all wartime correspondents, not least because of the shrapnel-cracked mirrors it used to boast - and, "in another part of town", the one-time watering-hole of General Ariel Sharon, overseer of Israel's 1982-85 military débacle in

So it was good to cat Lebanon's traditional Suitan Ibrahim fish yesterday in the pristine confines of Nasr's, high above the Pigeon Rocks; not least because, after only two fish, I espied the dapper figure of



Brigadier General Ghazi Kenaan, the all-powerful head of Syrian military intelligence in Lebanon, sitting down with a covey of colonels at the next table. Now there's a restaurant that definitely won't dare give its

But even at home, it's difficult to keep food fresh when the power still comes only 12 hours a day. The Irish Electricity Supply Board is helping out in the power stations and a group of bullet-nosed Frenchmen are wiring up my local street for 220-volt electricity - much bowing and Gallic scraping was necessary to stop them running a fist-sized cable under my balcony. Two months after they first announced the switchover, however, I'm still on 110 volts. Then there's my local phone line, which emits an



hundreds of wires, all of them strung up by home-owners stealing power off the mains. On one pole, I counted 168 wires this week, half of them phone links, the others leaching electricity.

At least things are going a little faster in the old civil war ruins downtown. Teams of archaeologists have unearthed a treasure trove of Roman cohumns, statues, glassware, roads marked by chariot wheels, the whole classical shebang from ancient Berytns, along with a mosaic inscription which advises that "jealousy is the worst of all evils, the only good about it is that it eats no

the eyes and heart of the jealous". Builders, meanwhile, are getting a little jealous of the archaeologists' patch and want in start erecting the new Beirut. Just after the classical chaps went home last week, one construction company showed its lack of patience by sending a bulldozer down to the old Decumanus Maximus Roman road. There it quietly ploughed up 60 square metres of Byzantine mosaic pavement, turning to dust in 10 minutes what had lasted for almost 2,000 years. The public prosecutor, as they say, has been

What the Beirut tabloids would tell their readers if tabloids existed in Lebanon: that five lady members of Beirut's "velvet society" - the richer, shop-owning classes -- have been questioned by the police about drug-



hold anyone questioned about drug offences until the completion of their investigation – even though nine out of 10 are said to be innocent; that the Americans are again fingering Lebanon – without proof – as the source of the new US dollar "Supernote" forgery.

Fresh from gaining an extra three years for his presidency after some extremely odd changes to Article 49 of the Lebanese constitution, Elias Hrawi was busy receiving guests at the presidential palace at Baabda when a Shia lady arrived to congratulate him on his continuation in office. Wishing to remind Mr Hrawi that, as a Muslim lady, it was not her practice to shake hands with a man, she touched her right hand lightly to her chest, a traditional female greeting in

Not to be outdone, the 68-year-old president, who under the constitution must be a Christian Maronite, placed a white handkerchief firmly over his right hand so that it was not possible for his flesh to be touched. Then he held out the decorously mouchoired presidential hand - which the somewhat stunned Muslim lady dutifully shook. Both were clearly blissfully unaware that this Gilbertian scene had been watched on live television across Lebanon by tens of thousands of viewers.

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#### An agenda for the **United Nations**

To its many critics, the United Nations succeeded over the past three days in New York in presenting a sad parody of itself, as leaders from all around the world trailed to the city to join in a historic and costly exhalation

The organisation's golden jubilee has coincided exactly with one of its worst moments of crisis, fed by the refusal of the United States to pay up the roughly \$1.3hn it owes the UN. Had Washington stumped up the cash, it might just have been possible for those attending the jamboree in New York to leave saying that all was relatively wetl. Complacency and inaction would have been the order

Instead, we now have probably the best chance we are ever likely to get to institute wide reforms of the UN. John Major was right on Monday to support Boutros Boutros-Ghali's request for an emergency session of the General Assembly next year to try to agree a way forward and re-establish some order in the UN's accounts. In the run-up to such a session, Britain, the US and the other countries that make up the core 15 member states (who pay 80 per cent of the UN's hudget) should work hard to ensure that a serious attempt is at last made at reform.

The headings for that reform have been more or less identified. Clearly the perennial money crisis has to be sorted out once and for all. Unarguably, the bloated expanse of bureaucracy in New York and around the world should be

slimmed down, corruption rooted out and some satellite agencies closed down. The Economic and Social Committee in the UN, which is meant to deal with everything other than security, including development, is a hopelessly confused operation that needs urgently to be rebuilt. The need for regional organi-sations such as the UN Economic Commission for Europe is far from

But austerity alone will be insufficient to underpin the UN's future, and more than the cost-cutter's logic will be needed to win the agreement of all countries to change. Ahove all, the organisation nccds to have its legitimacy underpinned. For a start, that means making its steering bodies more democratic. There is consensus now that the Security Council itself, dominated by the original permanent five, should have a wider membership. And while Britain and the US migbt like the idea of jettisoning some agencies concerned with development, many smaller countries will resist. So the UN will have to prove that it is still concerned with economic, social and environmental issues, and that it realises that they are deeply intertwined with security problems.

Reform of the UN will only happen if the member states achieve a mutual sense of confidence about the Organisation's purpose. Redefining that purpose must be the first and most urgent step towards renewal. From that, detailed resbaping and retrenchment



With apologies to John Fowles

f, in the late autumn of 1995, you had been a guest at the oddly-named Buena Vista Hotel, in the town of Lyme Regis and had chosen to take tea in the Tivoli Rooms - you might have discerned, by inclining slightly to your left, the figure of a man emerging hurriedly from the shadowy front door of a neighbouring bouse.

This man, of an appearance that the conventions of the time declared to be that of an author - salt-and-pepper beard. arboreal check shirt, coarse corduroy trousers with fly undone in the English style - would pass beneath the window, his jaws working with suppressed anger. Despairing of your scones you might have decided that greater diversion was to be had from following the tall figure wherever he might lead.

See him at the top of Steep Pond Street, cursing the late visitors that throng the narrow streets and methodically fail to find the waste-hins with their handscrunched chip wrappings. Now his literary form carves a swathe through Broad Street, scattering the continuity girls from a BBC film unit engaged in yet another Jane Austen adaptation. Shricking and giggling they flee for the shelter of a mobile tea van, from which free bacon sandwiches are being dispensed to the cast.

Follow him through the car-park, striking out at the stationary motor vehicles. whose red, green and hlue metal frames have conveyed here the groups of gaily attired grockle folk (as Lyme nomenciature has it) clogging the town. At last he stands at the Cobb Gate, a blustery easterly buffing the redness of his cheeks, and surveys the long curving mole.
Follow his gaze down the sea-rampart

of the Cobb, whale-like in its immensity, but still fragile as it bolds on tenuously to the sombre shore. What you and he see is the figure of a woman, clothed all in black, staring Streep-like out to sea.

The author approaches, but does not speak. The woman looks up. Five minutes pass before, shading her face with her hand, she turns away. He examines her in silence and then turns, wordlessly, to stare at the somhre, grey sea. She turns to him, her pale lips part momentarily, but she says nothing. Then she turns away.

Next, something bappens so unexpected that an atom bomh being detonated on the old road to Charmouth could not be more surprising. He speaks. "Yuu're French. Is it your bloody Deux-Chevaux parked half on the pavement outside my house?" She turns away. "You are wrong on two counts", she replies. "I am the woman of a French lieutenant, not the French woman of a lieutenant of indeterminate nationality. Besides, I came here in a coach with fellow members of Women Against Harassment By French NCOs. We are celebrating our recent grant from the National Lottery. Now please leave and do not get all romantic. am not in the mood for corn on the Cobb." And she turns again to contemplate the sun-plashed but sombre sea.

#### ANOTHER VIEW Peter Waddington

#### Patrolling with a purpose

The leaked report of the Audit Commission into police patrolling merely confirms what researchers have been siving for years and what most police officers recognise: beat patrol is aimless, boring and has little impact on crime. How-ever, the commission's belief that this arises from poor management is superfi-

cial, as are the remedies it suggests. Between two-thirds and three-quarters of the police budget goes on patrolling. For the ufficers who do it, patrolling consists of hours of aimless wandering the streets, hoping that something will happen. Few seem to have any clear notion of why they patrol the places that they patrol. Their routes are usually decided on a whim. They rarely meet members of the public and prefer to patrol in pairs so they have someone to talk to. It is highly unlikely that they will make an arrest and even more unlikely that they will detect a serious crime.

The Audit Commission is correct: patrol is badly managed, but the commission's emphasis on crime-fighting is part of the problem, not the solution.

Most police work is in response to specific demands for assistance from the public. Such demands are enormously diverse, including reporting crimes, sub-criminal "trouble", and all manner of emergencies, from reporting missing children to elderly people thought lube in distress. It is this that justifies a 24-hour, mobile, generic emergency service. If police officers were devoted to intelligence-led crime-fighting

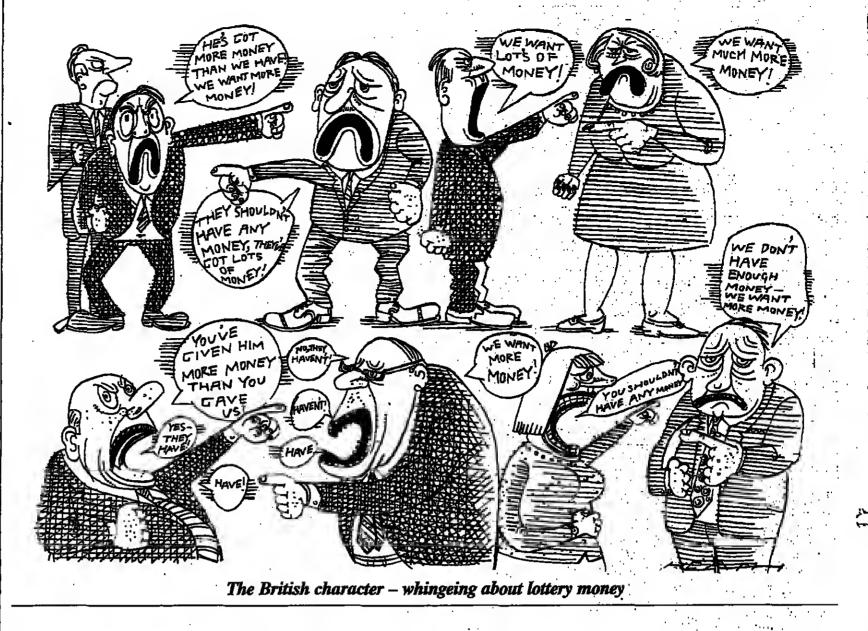
duties they would be unavailable to

respond to these manifold problems. The real challenge to policy makers and managers is how to ensure good quality service for those who turn to the police in times of trouble. The police can rightly be criticised for the almost total neglect of their non crime-fighting role. Individually, officers tend to dismiss the bulk of their work as "rubbish" because it fails to conform to the spurious glamour of crime-fighting. Corporately, the police disperse their officers throughout the area

and leave them to "get on with it". Supervisory and senior officers tacitly conspire in the denigration of non-crime work by ignoring it. When officers make arrests, reports will be written and read by their superiors - it is important to "get it right". On the other hand, an officer who deals skilfully with a dispute between neighbours or defuses a confrontation is likely to receive neither

recognition nor advice. Management in the police service should be devoted to supporting and assisting officers on routine patrol to provide the highest quality of service to all those who turn to the police in times of trouble. The insistence on assessing all police work in terms of its contribution to crime-lighting will only further encourage future generations of officers to dismiss much of what they do as "rubbish".

The writer is author of 'Calling the Police', a study of routine police work.



#### - LETTERS TO THE EDITOR -

lished. We are left impotent when

dealing with patients' concerns,

trumpeting "evidence-based medicine" as an explanation for

the rationing that is occurring in the NHS. If the three studies

quoted by the DoH have not

been critically analysed, then this

cannot be "evidence-based med-

icine". There are thousands of

studies occurring at any one time,

many of poor quality. If studies are not allowed to be challenged

in open debate, then I fear we will

be basing our care on rumours and scaremongering. Is this really the precedent the Government wishes to set?

The DoH sent letters to all

GPs on the evening of 18 Octo-

ber and a press conference was

arranged for the following morn-

ing. The department has taken

the moral high ground by saying that it is their duty to inform Pill

users as early as possible. Why

then are the women advised to go

wishes to involve us, it should do

so in full consultation with the GF

leaders. If not, then leave us out

Both your editorial on the 20

October ("Prudence and the Pill,

revisited") and the subsequent

correction (21 October) con-

tained maccuracies. The first

generation (high-dose oestro-

gen) Pills lead to a greater risk of

thromboembolism than either

the second generation (low

oestrogen), Pills or the third gen-eration (desogestrel and gesto-

of the mess.

dene) Pills.

N. M. NABI

23 October

Yours sincerely,

and see their GPs? If the Doll

The Government bas been

#### Pill scare: trouble for doctors and women

From Dr C. N. Barry
Sir: In common, I suspect, with
most other GPs, I beard about the latest Pill scare via the media on Thursday, before the official letter arrived in my post on Fri-day morning. The official advice to women is, perhaps not unrea-sonably at first sight, not to panic, but to consult your doctor during the current monthly cycle.

In our practice of six wholetime-equivalent doctors, with 10,000 patients, we bave about 360 women taking the allegedly "less safe" brands of Pill. To see them all over the next four weeks we would have to offer an extra 90 appointments per week at a time of year when practices are traditionally busy with seasonal ailments and, to cap it all, beginning in the half-term week when, as it bappens, we have two partners away on boliday!

Sadly, this is just another example of officialdom making recommendations, without the slightest idea of their practical

Yours faithfully, C. N. BARRY Wroughton Health Centre Swindon, Wiltshire

From Dr Irene Bainbridge and others

Sir: We are concerned about the motives behind the latest official warning on the dangers of certain low-dose combined contraceptive pills ("Pill alert for a million women", 20 October). The report suggests that at-risk patients are more likely to suffer from clotting disorders if they take certain brands of contraception.

Doctors have known of the risks from the combined contraceptives for many years. The risks

Sir: I would like to correct a false

impression in Christopher Bel-

lamy's article "US cancels laser

weapon that can cause hlind-ness" (14 October). The US did

not cancel its portable "Laser

Countermeasure System" directly

m response to the new interna-tional han on blinding laser

weapons. The US decision came

a week earlier as delegations, including those from the US and

the UK, crafted the protocol's language to let such anti-optical

laser weapons escape any inter-

national regulation despite their

It is unfortunate that diplomats

negotiated a far weaker protocol

on a limited category of blinding

laser weapons at a time when

laser weapons are not widely

Delia's for dunces

From Mr and Mrs R. Gregson Sir: We have long held that

Delia Smith's recipes bear the

same relationship to cooking as painting by numbers does to

art, and so were immensely

pleased to find in Rose Shep-

herd's article "Delia runs wild in

the booksbop" (17 October)

that we are not as alone in this

opinion as our friends and

neighbours would like us to

that the Sian Forbeses (letter,

21 October) of the world claim

to inhibit them? Snrely, once

you have mastered a few basic

What is this fear of cooking

potential to blind.

Blind spot in

From Ms Ann Peters

arms protocol

are real but very small. This is pre-cisely why the Pill is not available over the counter and can only be obtained from doctors. Before they provide any combined contraceptives, all family doctors take account of the woman's medical, social and family history and we only provide contraception we er is safe for the patients. We believe the current warning is icresponsible and unjustified,

causing many women undue anxiety. Some will have stopped their contraceptives, thereby risking an unwanted pregnancy, a condition not without its own hazards and long-term consequences.

Is it just coincidence that only a year ago the Government wanted to blacklist certain brands

of Pill on the grounds of costs? Yours sincerely, IRENE BAINBRIDGE, MARTYN JONES, DAVID ROBERTS, SHOM THOMAS, JOHN ZACHARIAS National Committee of the Dispensing Doctors Association Barham, Ipswich 20 October

From Dr N. M. Nabi Sir: Several issues have arisen out of the Department of Health's recent announcement

concerning the contraceptive Pill. The DoH lists varicose veins, obesity and previous thrombosis as reasons for discontinuing the thirdgeneration Pills containing desogestrel and gestodene. It is firmly established that varicose veins are not a contra-indication to the Pill. One of the biggest risk factors, smoking, has not been listed.

As GPs, we are unable to comment on the actual research that persuaded the DoH to go public, as the research is not yet pub-.

deployed within countries' arse-nals. Perhaps the US Department

of Defense decision reflects a recognition that the military util

ity of this particular anti-optical

laser weapon is overshadowed by

the humanitarian impact on sol

diers and society as a whole. The new ban on blinding laser

weapons also has not come into

force yet. Twenty states now must

consent to be bound by the ban

before it becomes international law. The UK should take the lead

and ratify the new protocol on

blinding laser weapons without delay. It must send the clear mes-

sage that deliberate hlinding is an

unacceptable way to wage war

and must work towards removing

techniques, then the joy is in

the experimentation and cre-

ation of thinking for yourself in

the kitchen - and learning in

Even if it does go wrong (and

it is rarely all that bad), you can

always turn to the pizza in the

freezer or an omelette to stave

off hunger. At worst, you have

lost some ingredients and a little

time, but you will probably have

learnt more from the experience

than Delia can teach you.

Yours faithfully,

JEAN GREGSON

Offord Cluny,

21 October

RICHARD GREGSON

any loopholes in the protocol.

Yours sincerely,

Human Rights Watch

Ann Peters

**Arms Project** 

London, N1 20 October

the process.

#### Wonderful Copenhagen

Walker Medical Group

Newcastle upon Tyne

From Mrs Joan A. Davis Sir: In Alastair Down's article on Red Rum ("The horse who could win a by a landslide", 21 October), be refers to "poor old Copenhagen hanging about all day waiting for Napoleon to get

back on". Copenhagen was otherwise engaged, as he was the charger the Duke of Wellington rode throughout the last 17 hours of the Battle of Waterloo on 18 June 1815. He is said to still have been fresh when the Duke dismounted, and to have kicked ont, narrowly missing the

Duke's skull. There are differing accounts of his pedigree but it is generally agreed that he was a grandson of the great Eclipse. He had originally belonged to Field Marshal Grosvenor, was sold by him to the Marquis of Londonderry, then Adjutant General to the Peninsular Army, who sent him to Lis-bon in 1813. He was then bought by Colonel Charles Wood. together with another horse, for 400 guineas for the Duke, with

whom he soon hecame a favourite. Copenhagen was a small horse, stallion standing about 15 hands high, but of great strength and endurance. He was foaled in 1808 and died in 1836 when he was buried with military honours at Strathfield Saye: A headstone marks his grave. Yours faithfully, JOAN A. DAVIS Freshwater, Isle of Wight

#### Tapes are a legal safeguard

From Mr Christopher Witts Sir. I sympathise with the sentiments behind Marguerite Evers' and Alan Bullion's letters about selling evidence for profit in cases such as Frederick West's (23 October), but there are wider spects which they ignore.

Firstly, a fundamental rule of Pace [the Police and Criminal Evidence Act] is that the police must provide interviewees with duplicate tapes. If the tapes were to come with a complete ban on publication, a vital safeguard would he destroyed. Usually, there would be nothing to pre-vent the individual from recounting the interview at a later date. If the interviewee died, it would make no material difference except that his rights to the tapes would pass to his estate.

In the event of the interviewee dying in suspicious circumstances

during the interview, or at least while in custody, your columns would be full of questions about the nature of the questioning if publication of the tapes were lawfully prevented.

Secondly, if the material takes on a commercial value and the Official Solicitor ignores it, no doubt any innocent defendants, whose financial interests he is there to protect, would have a right of action against him and they, too, might be calling for his removal from office.

Perhaps we may all take some comfort from the fact that we do have sub hudice rules which at least protect us from some of the travesties of justice transmitted to us from across the Atlantic. Yours faithfully, CHRISTOPHER WITTS Malmesbury, Wiltshire

#### When does success | Environmental spell failure?

From Mr Eric Hebborn Sir. In his review of Alice Beckett's Faker: Forgery and the Art World ("The Art of Lying", 16 September), David Ekserdjian says that I have heen quoted as comparing myself with Michelangelo and Rembraudt, without bothering to say who quotes me, or if I compare myself favourably or otherwise. In response, allow me to quote from my autobiog-raphy, Drawn to Trouble: "I have never considered myself a mis-

understood genius or for that matter a genius at all."

As for being a failed artist, 1 don't know what Mr Ekserdjian considers success, but an artist such as myself, who has won such prestigious prizes as the Royal Academy's silver medal and the Rome scholarship, has had innumerable one-man shows, and whose works are represented in some of the most important public and private collections in the world can hardly be consid-

ered a total failure. Unfortunately, Mr Ekserdjian has adopted his slant from the book he was reviewing, where the author writes. "It seems to me Hebborn wrote his book in desperation for recognition." Well, Ms Beckett is entitled to her opinion, but like most of us she believe what she wants to believe. The fact remains that scarce as the supply of truth is, it yet far exceeds its demand. Yours truly,

#### Off track

From Mr Tim Mickleburgh Sir: So, "Linford Christie is the greatest athlete this country has ever produced" (Magazine, 21 October)? Well, it was a tremendons achievement for him to win the 100m gold in Barcelona, but let's not forget that Sebastian Coe (1,500m, 1980 and 1984) and Daley Thompson (decathlon, 1980 and 1984) both gained two Olympic titles, as well as setting world records, something Christie has never done. Indeed Coe's time of 1.41.73 for the 800m, set at Florence in June 1981, remains on the listings

today. Yours faithfully, TIM MICKLEBURGH Grimsby, Lincolnshire 21 October

#### facts on the Net

From Mr Alan Watson

Sir. You reported today that Friends of the Earth has "placed a register of Britain's most polluting factories, gasworks, chemical plants and refineries on the Internet" ("Blackspot warnings go on the Internet", 20 October). While we have provided detailed information on over 1,000 industrial sites, including some ensification processes, we haven't yet been able to publish data on old polluted gasworks sites. This is because the locations of these toxic legacies have been kept a closely guarded secret by British Gas.

We bave, bowever, undertaken studies of gasworks and other contaminated land and we will be placing this information on to the Internet very soon. If British Gas had not been privatised, the public would have had a right to know detailed information about contamination of gasworks sites under the Environmental Information Regulations 1992.

Our decision to process this data for the Internet has been vindicated by the tremendous uptake.

In the first four hours after the aunch, the data was seen by 10 times as many people as visited the Pollution Inspectorate's registers in a whole year. We hope that industry and regulators will take note and provide detailed environmental information on the Net.

Yours sincerely. ALAN WATSON Senior Campaigner Friends of the Earth London, N1 19 October

#### Lottery squabbles

From Mr Tony Brown Sir. As the name-calling by the disappointed reaches a crescendo, the obvious is overlooked. If there were no lottery, there would be no cash to squabble over. Yours faithfully, Tony Brown London, W3

Letters should be addressed to Letters to the Editor and include a daytime telephone number. (Fax: 0171-293 2056; e-mail: letters@ independent.co.nk) Letters may be edited for length and clarity. We regret that we are unable to acknowledge unpublished tetters.

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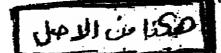
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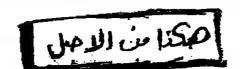
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White Carlone 23 HON SECRETARY





21 October



#### comment

#### Lord Mackay's well-intentioned fiasco

The proposals for divorce reform threaten to create a mess on a par with the Child Support Agency

ast week the bold Lord Mackay was a paean of praise for marriage, portraying his liberalising divorce addressed Marriage Care, the Catbolic Marriage Advisory Council. There was standing room only for his speech expounding the virtues of his proposed divorce reform hill, due in Parliament next month.

If for this Wee Free Lord Chancellor this amounted to supping with the popish anti-Christ, at least he sold his soul for something of tangible value, An astonishing press release soon afterwards was his reward. It reads: The Catholic Media Office has written to all the Catholic members of Parliament pointing out that the Lord Chancellor's White Paper on divorce law reform was hroadly welcomed by the Catholic Bishops Conference. Mgr Kieran Conroy said: 'It would be quite wrong if Catholic MPs were to be swayed in their view of the Lord Chancellor's proposals by incorrect information about the Catholic bish-

ops' view. What a coup, just as the Catholic MPs are being lohbied vigorously by John Patten to demand a free vote on the new no-fault, knock-for-knock

If Lord Mackay were not such an honourable man, it might be suspected that he had pulled the wool over the eyes of the gullible antidivorce Catholic hishops. Were he not so utterly ingenuous by nature, his speech might read as one of the most disingenuous for a long while. But he prohably believed every word he spoke. That is what worries a lot of professionals in the field. Does he have any idea what he is doing and

reforms as no more than marriage guidance that would get couples back together again. He sounded like the Pope. He spoke of marriage as "special ... a unique affirmation of the lifelong commitment a man and a woman have made to each other .... I believe it is a divinely appointed institution which is of mestimable

value to the human family." Pages more of this brought him stealthily round to the question of divorce, and even then it was as sugar-coated as a golden wedding tribute. "I do not believe that a marriage is necessarily irretrievable, just because one of the parties has asked for a divorce.... This is one of the main reasons underlying my wish to change the current divorce system ... I want couples to talk to each other. want them to be able to think through the consequences of divorce hefore it happens, not after. I want

them to think about what their marriage has to offer both them and their children before they decide whether or not to throw it away.... I helieve mediation offers a better way of saving those marriages which are not irretrievable." Is it surprising he had the Catholics

eating out of his hand? This is the unlikely man who is introducing the most radical divorce reform since 1969 when the Labour MP Leo Abse openly advocated "libidinal liberation". Under it couples will divorce without fault after one year, instead of the present two (or five years if one why?

The entire content of the speech partner resists). The case for reform is that the law is mocked, since most



#### POLLY TOYNBEE

Mediation is an excellent option, but is suitable for fewer than half the cases

couples divorce within months on often trumped-up and damaging accusations of unreasonable behaviour. Removing fault stops that loophole, but it is a fundamental moral

There will be a compulsory information session for couples as soon as they file for divorce, and a very strong push towards mediation, instead of resorting to their separate lawyers. However, every piece of advice, research and evidence that the Lord Chancellor has been given has told him loud and clear that mediation does not get couples back together again. When it works, it helps them separate with less strife.

The problem with Mackay's mis-understanding and wishful thinking about mediation is that it is in danger of leading to a system that will not work, and may do much harm, especially to valuerable poorer women.

Couples will be coerced into mediation, though it will only have real force with those on legal aid. If legally aided couples refuse mediation, they will have to appear before an intake officer who will decide if they have a good enough reason for

The problem is that Mackay's sen-timental view of the process has clouded the fact that these people are in hitter opposition, fighting for extremely important rights to children and property. The Solicitors' Family Law Association was not simply acting as a trade union this week when it expressed deep alarm that people would not have access to advice from lawyers. Research shows that mediation works best backed up by legal

advice as the process goes along.

Diana Parker, a leading family solicitor, is also a strong believer in mediation, as a founder of the Family Mediators' Association. She says drily of Mackay's views: "The only couples who typically get back together are the violent cases, where there is still enough passion smouldering away for ciliation after reconciliation until they finally burn out and split. The ones for whom mediation works well are those who have already disengaged, and embark upon it coolly with clear-cut objectives. In mediation they are no longer a couple, but two people with very different interests."

Mediation is an excellent option, but is suitable for fewer than half the cases. If the host of new mediators (who will not be lawyers) are on block government contracts, the pressure to get results will be intense. Mackay may have had a personal vision of happy

reconciliations, but he sold it to the Treasury on the grounds that it will limit the legal aid bill for divorce. because the hourly rates for mediators will be cheaper than for solicitors.

The great majority of wives go on to social security when they separate from their husbands. They divorce on legal aid, and have no other money for lawyers. Discovering the true earnings and assets of husbands can prove very difficult, especially for self-employed men with complicated finances. Mediators on performance-related contracts may be urged to engineer quickfix deals against the interests of the most vulnerable. They may not have the professional expertise to scrutinise difficult accounts. There is here another Child Support Agency flasco in the making.

The most curious aspect to this

whole divorce reform initiative is that there is no great pressure for it from anywhere. It is Lord Mackay's own baby, pushed through a deeply dubi-ous Cahinet that would never have swallowed it from any less Christian

Virtually all the organisations concerned with marriage and divorce agree that children of divorce will be helped if conflict between couples is lessened. But the danger is that a new two-tier system is being hrought in, with une law for poor divorcees, and another for the rich who can afford lawyers and accountants. All will depend on the small print of the Bill when it is published next month. If it denies poor people free reasonable access to lawyers throughout the process, then it may end up doing more harm than good.

#### The key to my enlightenment

Not very long ago I was standing in a Catholic church in the middle of Italy when I had a sudden flash of enlightenment. All at once it came to me, as if from nowhere, that it was about time I took some of the things off my

Let me explain the background to this vision. During my recent absence from these pages, I was in Italy working for an independent TV company on a Channel 4 programme about saints' relies. (I am not an expert on saints relies. I think that was one of the reasons they hired me: I lent an air of holy innocence in the proceedings

we came to the hill town of Cascia, where the body of St Rita, patron saint of lost causes, is displayed to the public, even though she died hundreds of years ago and is now a little shrunken. And after we had finished talking to the very patient nun who agreed to face the camera and tell me the some what horrific story of St Rita, with the body of the saint hovering in mid-air behind us, she took me into a back room and said with a beatific smile: "This

In the course of our travels

is a present for you."
"This" was a key-ring. It had a little locket dangling from it, with some roses on one side and a picture of St Rita on the other. The picture of the saint is subtitled, in Italian, "S. Rita, Proteggimi", or "St Rita, protect

I thanked ber in profuse, but minimal Italian and to show that I meant husiness I got my keys out to introduce St Rita on to my key-ring. And it was under the gaze of this nun that I suddenly realised how grossly over-populated and over-privileged my key-ring was.

Normally, we do not realise this until our keys start creating holes in pockets or become too heavy to lift, hut when you are exposing your keys to the holy gaze of a nun who, you are convinced, owns nothing and needs nothing, and has perhaps even sold all and given unto the poor, you can't help feeling a bit of a fat cat.

There and then I promised St Rita that I would rationalise my keys when I got home.

Today, I have got out my hunch of keys and have started the audit. For a start, I have weighed it, and it comes in at just under 200 grammes, or ust over 7 ounces. It also led to the following question from my wife.

"Why are you weighing your keys ?'

They're about half a pound," 1 said, deliberately gnoring the question.

"Has it ever occurred to you that you walk around every day with a packet of butter in your pocket?" she said.

"St Rita, give me strength," "What did you say?"

"Nothing "I thought I heard a woman's

name. "Someone called Nobody you know."
Now that honours were even,

I got down to the joh of cata-loguing my keys. There are about 16 of them. I say about 16 because it is almost impossible to avoid counting keys twice on a key-ring. There are two for bicycle locks and two keys for a rowing boar lock. There are several for cars, and several for donrs in the house. (Outside doors, that is, Most of the interior doors in our house have locks as well, hut we removed the keys from them because my son and his contemporaries went through a happy phase of accidentally locking themselves in rooms. They have passed that phase now. They are now into a phase of deliberately locking people



into rooms. So the keys are back in hiding. In the cellar, in a box, I think.) There are also several luggage keys, and there are two keys I do not recognise.

"Why are you counting your keys ?" said my wife. This, you will remember, is the same person who had earlier asked me why I was weighing them. There are two keys here I do not recognise," I said, again ignoring her question. I am good at ignoring questions. 1

would make a fine politician.
"Well," she said, "that one is the hike-shed key hut I don't recognise the other one."

Have you noticed that there is always at least one key on your ring that is a stranger, in the same way that hotel rooms always have one electric switch that operates nothing? Never get rid of it. In my experience, the petrol cap on a car. I once borrowed my wife's car and had to fill it up with petrol, and couldn't open the locked petrol cap, but then found that I had the key to it on my ring, although I swear I never put it there.

Why are you looking worried," said the woman who asks all these questions. "I can't think of a way of lightening my key-ring.

"Why not take off that completely unnecessary St Rita attachment?" Of course. Why hadn't I thought of that?

#### Spend less, let the people prosper



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Europe should learn from the successful Asian nations and rein in the state sector,

resonance for all of us in Hong Kong. It was the suggestion that Britain should aim to become, in effect, the Hong Kong of Europe, offering - if I took the point accurately - an offshore entrepreneurial haven: an open economy throbbing with vitality, invigorated by low taxes, liberated from excessive governmental regulation. All this in sharp contrast to a more hureaucratically burdened, higher taxed, introverted, Continental Europe. If Deng Xiaoping was living in Brussels, be would have had a phrase for it - "one community, two

I find this notion of the symbiotic colonial relationship rather a happy

There is not an umbilical connection between public morality and public spending

one. Can Britain learn lessons from her last great colony - and apply them to her own long-term advantage? There is less of a hang-up in most

successful Asian countries about the relationship between the individual and the state. Most have pursued economic policies that have been market-driven but, like Hong Kong, have leant heavily on substantial public investment in social equity programmes - health, housing, education. In Hong Kong, we are relaxed about mixing and matching public and prirate investment for community benefits. Like Deng Xiaoping, we care less about the colour of the cat than about

whether it catches mice. But we assume that free-market cats are likely to do the job best. We must surely in Britain and Europe rededicate ourselves with the fervour of zealots to open markets and free trade. If we want Asian spending power to help to fuel world growth then we've got to make room in our lower in 1997 than it was in 1982-83. department stores and our showrooms for the things that Asia makes.

argues Chris Patten These days I am a distant and dis-creet observer of party confer-The hillionaire protectionists in Amerences. But one phrase from the ita and Europe should get short shrift." speeches at Blackpool had a certain And I take it as read that the electorates of Europe want faster eco-

nomic growth. We have seen in the past few years that nothing gets better without it, and that since ties of community are strained by its absence. it is worth at least challenging the assumption that any more radical efforts to revitalise our economies would inevitably require policies that tear communities apart. They tear apart anyway.

What is the issue around which I tiptoe so delicately? It is quite simply the appetite of states; it is the proportion of every community's income that is taken in taxes and public spending. In Hong Kong this year we will spend 16.2 per cent of our GDP on public expenditure, and take 11.6 per cent in taxes.

You find similar spending figures elsewhere in the region: in Korea about 18 per cent; in Taiwan almost 16 per cent; in Thailand about 15 per cent; in Singapore about 20 per cent; in Malaysia a whopping 25 per cent. Admittedly it is hard to compare like with like. But the picture is broadly the same. Relatively lower levels of publie spending as a proportion of GDP are a hallmark of these booming

Asian economies. What is the position in Europe? In Britain, nearly 43 per cent of our GDP goes on public expenditure. In France the figure is almost 55 per cent; in Germany - where Chancellor Kohl recently advocated slimming down the state sector - the figure is 49 per cent.

I use these figures only to illustrate a more general proposition. Lower proportions of public expenditure are without doubt a consequence in part of less advanced stages of economic development. In Japan, for example, the figures are much closer to those in Europe and North America.

The figures in Asia may edge up as

the appetite of electorates for public provision grows - though in Hong Kong, while we have had substantial increases in spending on social welfare, the proportion of GDP devoted to public expenditure is likely to be All these comparisons require a health warning with flashing neon lights, and



I do not pretend that Hong Kong's health and educational provision. level of public spending as a proportion of GDP is a realistic target for OECD countries.

So I am not an advocate of a slashand-burn approach to public spending. But my three years in the fastest-growing region in the world, in one of the fastest-growing economies in the world, have impressed on me that some reduction in the state's take of national income is an essential condition for more rapid growth as well as, of course, for lower taxes, which them-selves help to spur growth. And I find it hard to accept that existing public. taxpayer-funded provision is so pluperfect that it cannot be snipped,

pruned or in some cases dismantled Hong Kong is not demonstratively worse off with proportionately much lower public spending than equivalent economies in Europe. But it has long had an iron rule that public spending should not grow faster than the trend rate of growth in the economy. As a result, public expenditure has remained below 20 per cent of GDP. taxes have stayed low and Hong Kong's economy has continued to grow healthily. So it has been able to afford increases in public spending to provide decent levels of welfare.

I bope that I can set these observations quite apart from any current controversies, and apply them to Europe as a whole. They represent an objective, not a costed programme. The scale of the task of curbing public expenditure means that it must be one for the long term. But the long term has to start somewhere. Naturally it would he better if reform and retrenchment in the public sector could be pursued with as broad a base of public and political support as possible. We have to challenge the assumption that there is an umbilical connection between public morality

and public spending.
In his hrilliant book The World After Communism, Robert Skidelsky concedes that how to make significant cuts in state spending hristles with technical and political difficulties. But, as he goes on to argue, "at root the issue is philosophical. We need to answer two kinds of question. Are the welfare responsibilities which the state has assumed over this century any longer appropriate in privately wealthy societies? And what, in such societies, is the appropriate division of responsibility we would want to see between the individual and the state?"

This is a profoundly liberal issue. Of course, it assumes an end result of lower taxes and an end to envy as the motor of fiscal policy. But I am not advocating the crasser sorts of individualism, in which men and women are regarded as culturally rootless and devoid of a sense of duty and responsibility. Nor am I arguing, as some appear to do, that everything that states do is wrong and that we need an ideological assault on the public service. Far from it. Like Douglas Hurd, I believe strongly in the ethic of public service, and admire the professionalism of Britain's public

But I also see the case for what Skidelsky calls "state repair", both in the European Union and in those fellow European states to the east that should be part of it. In other words, we shall only be able to restore the authority of states by shrinking what they do. They are, today, musclebound but weak; ambitious but derided. To do much better, they must do much less.

This is an edited extract from a speech given by the Governor of Hong Kong to the Conservative Political Centre last

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DM (London)	2.1926	+0.68pf	2,4370	DM (London)	1.3873	-0.50pf	1.4969
Yen (London)	158.20	+Y0.65	158.26	Yen (London)	100.05	-Y0.45	97.21
£ index	83.6	+0.1	89.2	\$ Index	92.6	+0.2	92.9

	Yesterday	Day's chy	Year Ago		lastes	Latest	Yr Agu	Next	He
Oil Brent \$	16.05	+\$0.11	16.52	RPI	150.6	3.9pc	2.4		_
Gold \$	382.50	+\$0.75	389.50	GDP	106.6	2,4pc	4.1	20	Nov
Gold £	241.90	-0.25	239.25	Base Rat	es	6,75pc	5.25	•	_

Source: Datastream

#### INBRIEF

#### Still no deal on £3bn Grid

The National Grid Company failed again to reach final agreement on details of its £3bn flotation, expected to take place in December. An announcement expected last Friday was postponed because of tax-related "technical" issues raised by Hanson, the industrial group which has bought Eastern Electricity, one of the 12 regional electricity companies which owns the Grid. In-dustry sources hope for resolution of the problem by tomorrow.

#### Omnitel connects to \$1bn loan

Financial advisers to Italian cellular phone company Omnitel will today announce that the company's \$1.1hn syndicated loan has been oversubscribed, with a substantial share placed with foreign investors, including UK institutions. The financing will underwrite the roll-out of Omnitel's network, which will compete with the state telephone company Telecom Italia. Company executives declined to comment on the financing deal, saying that lead banks — including JP Morgan, Chase Manhattan, UBS and Société Générale — would make an announcement today

#### United nears USAir decision

United Airlines - one of the world's largest employee-owned companies - achieved record income in the third quarter and gave a bullish forecast of future growth that helped lift shares

across the sector. The company is expected to decide within the next two or three weeks whether or not to bid for the rival carrier US Air, in which British Airways - head-ed by Sir Colin Marshall (right) - has a 24.6 per cent stake. American Airlines is also considering a bid for US-Air, although reports from Washington yesterday suggested that American was close to a link-up with British Airways, BA described the re-



ports as pure speculation, but admits talking to a number of air lines about expansion in the US should it sell its stake in USAir

#### North West's Norweb stake now 44%

North West Water now owns or has acceptances in respect of 44.8 per cent of Norweb. The Government is due to decide by 3 November on whether to refer the hid to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

#### Currencies bounce back

There was a mild bounce-back by currencies bit by the flight to the German mark on Monday. The dollar closed in London up half a prennig at 1,3873 and the pound strengthened by half a pfennig to close at 2.1925. The French franc improved two cen-times against the mark to 3.5080. The dollar ended the day in London just above 100 yen.

#### Newspaper merger approved

Independent Newspapers (UK), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Independent Newspapers plc, has been given government approval to acquire Lundon Recorder Newspapers which owns nine local weeklies in the north and west of the capital.

#### Prudential takes on the banks

JOHN WILLCOCK and NICK CICUTTI

Prudential, Britain's largest insurance company, last night sent shock waves through the financial services industry by announcing it was about to move into retail banking.

Its plan to sell savings and mortgages down the telephone is seen as the beginning of a fullservice banking operation and is the latest move in a revolution among banks, building societies and insurance companies which has seen nearly £30bn worth of takeovers and acquisitions in the past 18 months.

Analysts praised the Pru's low-cost, high-profile approach, which is aimed at retaining some of the £1bn-odd it pays out on maturing policies each year. Much of this is deposited with hanks and building socieities, the Pru said.

"It's a logical extension, a nice move," said Tom Bennett, insurance analyst at Paribas. Similar moves by insurers in Scandinavia had forced banks to raise their deposit rates to in-

"The good news is that

a phone banking launch comes hard on the beels of a series of deals in which banks, building societies and insurers have all reacted to a low-inflation, deregulated and highly competie marketplace.

they're not huying an existing bank or building society. There



Michael Harris: setting up

years that they might do so," said Nick Bunker, an ABN Amro Hoare Govett analyst.

Prudential's chief executive, Peter Davis, said in a statement: "We enjoy existing relation-ships with over 6 million customers in the UK and benefit from a well established and well regarded brand."

societies and banks. "Given this base, we believe

Mike Harris made his name as vices made him a hot proper-

& Wireless.

chief executive of First Direct,

the successful Midland Bank

subsidiary, which first intro-duced telephone banking to a

mass audience in the late 1980s,

years in 1991, he seemed set for

an even more glittering career as chief executive of Mercury

Communications, the phone arm of Cahle & Wireless. He

was perceived to have vision;

a background in management

consultancy and systems, and

his ability to apply technology to mass market financial ser-

Leaving that job after three

writes John Willenck.

around £700m a year in mortgages, using a panel of building

we can build a substantial business in a short period of time." The insurer is well placed to

use its financial muscle, making profits of £604m last year.

ty. But he was ousted from his

post of chief executive at Mer-

cury last year and moved sideways to a development job,

apparently after falling foul of

Lord Young, chairman of Cable

garded as a popular figure. One Mercury insider said yesterday:

"He was very well-liked ... he

was good at the big picture, a visionary." He introduced the

"Imagine Programme" at

Mercury, which encouraged

management and staff to stop

thinking of the company as a

Still only 46, Mr Harris is re-

Prudential said it would sopply the threat from the high street to the Bank of England for a banks' expansion into mortdeposit-taking licence with the aim of offering a direct bank-ing service using the telephone

and post. The recent £15bn Lloyds Bank bid for TSB, following on from Lloyds' £1.8on acquisition of Cheltenham & Gloucester

products.

biggest insurers as well as mortgage lenders. Building Society, highlighted The new head of Prudential's Man with gift for the big picture

banking operation is Michael Harris, who made his uame by spearheading Midland Bank's introduction of the then-revo-Intionary First Direct phone banking operation in the late 1980s and hopes to reverse this a vehicle for new ideas and trend by stealing some of the banks' thunder. A chemistry graduate from University College, London, his first information technolo-Some analysts warned that big as the Pru is, it may still lack the gy job was with CAP (now the SEMA Group) in 1970. He then moved to Midland Bank's sheer capital required to make

a big dent in the high street management services for 14 banks' market share, not least because of the Bank of England's years, and then to PA Consulstrict capital adequacy rules.

John De La Hey, an SG tants for a three-year stint in management consultancy. During his three years with Mercury, the UK's second largest telecommunications

Stranss Tumbull analyst, said that in the short term. Prudential's move would be felt more by building societies than banks.

Eyes on the prize: City names behind former chief executive who wants to buy out the founding family

#### Asda told to raise price of drugs

NIGEL COPE

Asda, the supermarket group leading the challenge against resale price maintenance, has been served with an injunction by two pharmaceuticals groups to prevent it from selling vitamins and minerals at cut prices. The group lost part of its bat-

tle yesterday when a court ruled that from 4pm today eight of the discounted lines will return to the resale maintenance price, an increase of 25 per cent. The two companies involved are Roche Pharmaceuticals, which makes Sanatogen, and Seven Seas which produces the Seven Seas range of vitamin supplements.
A wider injunction was

thrown out but the two parties are due in court again next Thursday for a further bearing to decide the price level of the 70 remaining lines which are the subject of dispute.

Tony Campbell, Asda's trading director said: "We continue to fight to bring better value vitamins, minerals and supplements to our customers. We also urge the Office of fair Trading to speed up their investiga-tions of this outdated price-

fixing agreement." The injunctions follows Monday's action by Procter & Gamble, Warner Wellcome and Reckitt & Colman which threatened legal proceedings if Asda

extended its discounting policy to their products. Asda expressed disappointment the drugs firms had re-sorted to solicitors' letters before speaking to the group. The group mounted its chalenge to the resale price main-

tenance of non-prescription drugs last week when it cut the price of 80 vitamins and mineral products by up to 20 per cent. Boots and Sainsbury's have already responded with some price cuts, though a full-scale price war has not yet been

The mediations battle follows Asda's successful challenge to, the Net Book Agreement which collansed last month.

Asda is also supportive of Tesco's threat to spark a mag-azine price war if the industry's distribution and wholesaling arrangements are not made more flexible.



Barry Dale: Bidding £1.2bn to wrest control of Littlewoods from the Moores family

#### £1.2bn Littlewoods bid gets blue-chip backing

doubled to £219m.

and CHRIS BLACKHURST

The battle for control of the Littlewoods retail and football pools husiness took a step forward yesterday when it emerged that Barry Dale, the former chief executive, has lined up powerful City backers to fund his £1.2bn bid for the

It is the first time details of the consortium have become known and its membership adds weight to Mr Dale's attempts to wrest control of the privately owned group away from the

founding Moores family. The fresh development came as speculation grew that rival groups may also be interested

in bidding for the company.

Mr Dale sent an offer document to Littlewoods' advisers Kleinwort Benson on Friday confirming his £1.2bn offer. He. is backed by blue chip venture capital groups, including the Prudential, Electra, Candover Investments, Legal & General and Apax Partners.

A list of banks, which includes Chemical Bank, Deutsche, Fuji and Nations Bank of the United States, has been lined up to assume the company's debts and the merchant bank Dawney

Day is acting as adviser for the

Mr Dale's offer is believed to be worth 848p per ordinary share and 189p per preference share. This is thought to be a 70 per cent premium to the price received by Peter Moores, a family member who sold out last year. The deal values Littlewoods at a significant premium to its net asset value of £870m.

Littlewoods said: "We have yet to receive a formal offer but should we receive one we will respond to it." However, the company acknowledged Mr Dale's approach to Kleinwort Benson and said that it would be making a response.

According to the venture capital groups involved, Mr

John Coleman: Likely to inject some razzmatazz

Dale would be chairman of the group if the bid was successful.

John Coleman, former chief executive of Texas Homecare, has also joined the consortium and would become managing director of the retail division. This includes the Littlewoods stores, the home shopping business and the Index stores. His role would be to inject some razzmatazz into the Littlewoods outlets, which are seen as

dowdy and old-fashioned. Another director would be brought in to run the football pools division.

Fred Vinton, chairman of Electra, said: "It is the right time for the family to consider their options." He added that the decision "may not be purely financial", a reference to the complex emotional issues involved in such a large family

owned company.

Mr Vinton said that the inative offer is not a break-up bid and that he believed the business could be managed in its present form.

The offer is not conditional on acquiring 100 per cent con-trol. It is believed the consortium would be comfortable with 75 per cent of the shares and for family members who wished to retain a stake to do so.

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#### finance accountancy

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#### Lloyd's managing agent, Marchant and Eliot Underwrits requiring payment. A spokesman said he hoped that writing, over two unpaid cash calls of £6,000 by Dr Andrew

Lloyd's agreements between Lloyd's agents and its names. The ruling, which will be the subject of an appeal, was described by Lloyd's as "significant" and "one which will produce positive benefits for the society and its members". The test case was brought by

DAVID HELLIER

The Lloyd's of London insur-ance market claimed a signifi-

cant legal victory yesterday when a High Court judge up-

held the principle of the "pay now, sue later" clause con-

tained in agreements between

Higgins, a member of its syn-dicates. Mr Justice Rix delivered his 58-page judgment yesterday. Dr Higgins's defence, based on Article 85 of the Treaty of

competitive practices, argued that the "pay now, sue later" clause was anti-competitive. The judge said he could not understand how the obligation to pay outstanding cash calls could be said to distort competition. Lloyd's could not operate without such a concept; rather than giving Lloyd's a competitive edge it simply allowed it to com-pete on a level playing field with

**High Court backs Lloyd's** 

Rome, which prohibits anti-

insurance companies.
Lloyd's said the effect of the decision was to enable underwriting agents to obtain judg-ments against members who do not respond to cash calls and members would see the judg-ment for what it was and that those who fall in the category

of won't rather than can't pay

Lloyd's financial recovery de-partment, said: "The judgment will enable agents in the mar-ket to take positive action to recover many outstanding cash calls. It also represents an unambiguous warning to those who won't pay their Lloyd's loss-es. I hope sincerely that Lloyd's can begin discussions with those members and, as a result, avoid costly and time-consuming

Philip Holden, head of

litigation."
Susan Dingwall, partner and head of Dibbs Lupton Broomhead's insurance and reinsurance group in London, who acted for Marchant & Eliot, said: "This is a significant ruling, which will be welcomed not only by the Lloyd's agency com-munity but also by those names who have been paying their loss-es, and by potential investors in the Lloyd's market."

#### Minister to intervene in £700m gas row

Industrial Correspondent

support for British Gas's efforts to renegotiate long-term con-tracts with North Sea producers, which are forcing the company to buy more gas than it can sell. Tim Eggar, Minister for Energy and Industry, said he could not take a direct role but would act as "moderator or facilitator" if asked, or "if I thought matters were getting out of hand".

seminar in London marks a sig-nificant change in his public

stance on the contracts, which

until now the Government has

said were a matter for the industry. It comes amid mounting

commercial pressure on British

Gas, which by the end of this

1990 91 92 93 94 95 Mr Eggar's statement at a

year will have been forced to buy about £700m worth of gas which it cannot yet sell. Some City analysts believe that the figure will soar well beyond £1bn within a few years. Mr Eggar said that the in-

troduction of competition has

"changed the underlying basis of these contracts", which were entered into when British Gas was a monopoly huyer and sell-er of gas throughout the UK. He said that extending competition to domestic customers, begin-ning next year, would put further pressure on the company.

"British Gas can no longer assume all the market risks of selling gas. In the industrial and commercial market, BG's share has fallen from virtually 100 per cent in 1990 to around 35 per cent today," he said.

Mr Eggar said that failure to renegotiate the contracts, which is being strongly resisted by some large producers, could have wider implications for the the development of the UK continental shelf".

The company was further embarrassed yesterday by a

survey which underlined its lack of popularity and showed that its public believes it gives poor value for money.

The Mintel survey showed that in the eyes of consumers, British Gas lags other household names in value for money and trustworthiness. It also falls behind in terms of being in touch with customers.

Mintel International said that the 1995 survey coincided with two negative news items for British Gas: the impending pay increase to Cedric Brown and the decision to allow discounts to direct-debit customers.

Boots, the high-street chemists, came top in four of the five categories. The only one it failed to win was the social and environmental awareness poll,

topped by Body Shop.

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3 page appointment tion covering vital ies in accountancy c sector finance and e legal profession

re pages 12-19

'Shareholders should

monolithic business

intact. The parts may

be worth more than

look hard at the

justification for

keeping this

#### business

#### British Gas could ditch its awkward customers

For British Gas, the drawback of serving most of the households in Britain is that there are few people without an opinion on the convinced that selling the domestic most of the need for the are few people without an opinion on the convinced that selling the domestic most of the need for the company, and most of it is unflattering.

A Mintel survey yesterday confirmed that public esteem for Cedric Brown and his team is at a low ebb, which is hardly surprising after the hammering they have had over the last year.

The customer is always right, of course, but in this case British Gas has a perfectly simple way ont of its public relations difficulty - get rid of the troublesome domestic customers altogether. Instead, the company could better serve its shareholders by concentrating on gas production, international expansion and the safe and cash-rich monopoly business of transmission.

This is not a fanciful notion. Indeed, it has This is not a fanciful notion. Indeed, it has already been and gone in the last few years, and looks like coming back again. A Monopolies Commission report in 1993 recommended divestment of the supply side of British Gas by 1998, which caused a storm of protest from Cedric Brown.

The Government overruled the commission and backed Mr Brown, but in return demanded that the introduction of competition to the domestic supply business be brought forward several years, to next year, wheo a pilot programme begins.

But the issue has not gone away. It has

become clear that Richard Giordano, the chairman, sees the rejection out of hand of the monopolies recommendation to divest a trade sale might be a better answer, as a mistake. (He arrived after the event.)

supply side of British Gas will be put back on the agenda. Clare Spottiswoode, the gas regulator, finds nothing wrong with the idea, if the right buyer can be found. A split would make ber job easier, since the relationship between the supplier of the gas and the organisation that transmits it around the countryside - the owner of the gas grid would then truly be at arm's length.

British Gas has had approaches by energy businesses interested in acquiring parts of its regional gas supply network. An approach does not equal a negotiation, let alone an offer, and Mr Brown, gas enthusiast man and boy, is unlikely to want anything to do with the idea. Indeed, for British Gas to sell an isolated part of the supply business would be to shoot itself in the foot. In an era of deregulation, when any supplier can move into another's area, there is no point in helping competitors acquire billing systems that make them more effective predators. It makes sense to sell all or nothing.

To find a buyer for the whole supply business may not be easy as competition increases, as it undoubtedly will in the wake of gas supply deals such as that announced between Seeboard and Amoco on Monday - a partnership aimed at encroaching on British Gas markets. Demerger rather than

petitors are entering the fray. Either way, British Gas shareholders should look hard at the justification for keeping this monolithic business intact. The parts may be worth more than the whole.

#### A harsh message for manufacturers

That on earth has happened to mann-W facturers this year that has caused the biggest fall in their confidence since the exchange rate mechanism fiasco? After all, for most of the year the economy has been growing above trend, exports bave been buoyant and companies' coffers are full of cash.

The Confederation of British Industry says it is all due to the slower growth of orders. Domestic orders have actually fallen a bit in the latest quarter and export orders have slowed from the record a year ago. Perhaps manufacturers should louk to the example of services, where output growth has remained above trend - up more than 3 per cent in the year to the third quarter. The reason is that in many services prices have been flat or falling.

Manufacturers have certainly not passed on all of the increases in the cost of imported raw materials they faced earlier this year. But they have increased output prices, even

substantial increases in export prices.

The pace at which firms are raising domes tic prices has slowed. Yet they are still hoping to achieve much bigger price increases during the next four months, despite their failure to push through their expected price rises in earlier months. The market is sending a message to manufacturers that bope to raise prices: it cannot be done without hitting orders and output.

There is more to the manufacturing slowdown than this price effect, since interest rate increases have achieved their aim of slowing the demand side as well. But where there is sustained, non-inflatiouary growth it is a fact that higher prices will also be penalised by lower demand.

#### The Pru won't find it easy to be a bank

The insurance industry has moved far more A slowly into banking than the banks have moved the other way into insurance. One sim-ple reason for this, which enthusiasts for Prudeotial's move ioto direct banking by telephone should remember, is that banking is capital-intensive and the clearing banks are generally much bigger and bave

lot more capital than insurers. This capital intensity is not because of the

oewcomers - but because of the scale of the funds that central banks insist must be dedfunds that central banks insist must be dedicated to supporting the basic business of banking. A big clearing bank must put up at least £8 of its own capital to back every £100 of lending, to ensure there is mooey available to pay depositors if loans go sour. A smaller start-up banking operation such as the Pru's may well have to find twice as much before the supervisors will let it loose on the public. That capital is expensive to service.

public. That capital is expensive to service.

The Pru's immediate ambition seems to be to persuade customers for its maturing investment products to keep their money in the organisation by depositing it with the in-house bank. Whether customers will prefer to trust their savings to a little bank, even with the Pru's brand name, rather than a big clearer or building society is open to ques tion. Short-term deposits are fickle and chase the best rates advertised in the Saturday personal finance columns.

Even if that works, for the Pru to move onwards to become a serious lending bank
- with all the risks that brings - is of another
order of difficulty altogether. The Pru's initiative is an interesting new development in the financial services marketing war. But the company bas certainly not stumbled on the insurance industry's answer to Direct Line. Royal Bank of Scotland's devastating onslaught on the insurance markets.

#### Sharp fall in optimism prompts CBI warning

Economics Correspondent

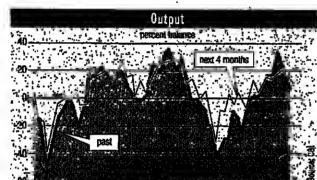
The biggest drop in business optimism since Britain tumbled out of the European exchange rate mechanism in 1992 confirms the slowdown in manufacturing, according to a Confederation of British In-

Andrew Buxton, chairman of the CBI's economic affairs committee, said: "The slowdown in growth indicated by the survey result is a warning signal."

The quarterly survey of industrial trends in manufacturing showed the balance of firms reporting higher output was the lowest for two years. New orders also increased at their. slowest rate for two years. Investment intentions have fallen since last quarter.

"We are certainly not talking about a recession." Output and orders were still rising, with growing exports off-setting the dip in bome demand. The conditions for sustained recovery were still in place, be said.

The CBI would nevertheless like hase rates to fall after the Budget. "We do not want a Budget that cuts taxes so much it puts upward pressure on interest rates," Mr Buxton said. Andrew Smith, the Shadow

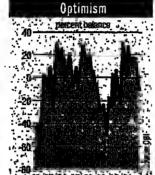


chief secretary to the Treasury, higher export orders, down said: "The fact that the CBI surfrom record levels set earlier this vey shows businesses scaling year, and a negative balance of back on investment suggests that the sustainability of the reminus 3 per cent in the case of domestic orders. covery will be hit." Plans to invest in new plant

The survey showed confi-dence has fallen for the second quarter in a row, with an espe-However, Mr Buxtoo can cially sharp dip in hig compationed against over-reaction: nies optimism. The balance of firms reporting more optimism over those feeling less optimistic was minus 11, compared

with plus 13 six months ago. The sharp fall in corporate feel-good reflects slower growth in export orders and a fall in domestic orders - both lower than the expectations reported in the last CBI survey.

creased at the slowest rate for



employment to resume over

The survey brought better news on prices which rose at the slowest rate for a year, and by less than expected. The balance and equipment remain positive, of firms that raised prices over those that cut them fell to 9 per but have fallen back. A positive cent from much higher levels balance of 12 per cent of firms earlier in the year. The weaker-than-expected

intend to spend more in the year ahead, down from 17 per cent in July. Ian Shepherdson, an economist at HSBC Markets, results led some City analysts to revive the case for lower base said it was disappointing to see rates. Simon Briscoe, at Nikko Europe, said: The Base of England will be hard-pressed to falling investment expectations. Levels of stocks increased for the second quarter running. Mr Buxton said a stocks buildwhip up inflation worries after this survey. The case has now up could depress output in fubeen made for policy-easing Employment

over the next year." The gilts market reacted favourably to the weak CBI surmanufacturing rose slightly dur-

#### Boddington chief due for £500,000

RUSSELL HOTTEN

Alan Smith, managing director of Boddington, is in line for a pay-off of more than £500,000 after four months' work at the pubs-to-oursing homes group.
He is expected to leave following the completion next month of Greenalls' £518m

agreed takeover of Boddington. Hubert Reid, chairman of Boddington, is to become nonexecutive director of Greenalls. but the company says it has not made a decision on the future of the other directors.

However, Mr Smith, and the finance director, Alan Rothwell, are not expected to stay. Greenalls will have to honour

existing contracts, and its offer document says it will buy out all unexercised share options. This means directors and

employees could collect up to £8m, with Mr Reid due to receive about £1.4m. Mr Smith moved to Boddington in June from Kingfisber's DIY chain, B&Q, where he was managing director, to bring

some retail experience to the pubs group. He is paid £165,000 a year and has a two-year contract, and will also cash in under a bonus scheme linked to Boddington's financial performance.

Under the executive share option scheme. Mr Smith bolds 129,411 options at 225p, though they would not normally be ex-ercisable until 1998. At Green-



A profitable four months: Alan Smith, managing director of Boddington

says: "If the offer becomes unconditional, Greenalls intends to make appropriate proposals to participants in the Boddington share option scheme in respect of options which remain

About 500 jobs are expected to be lost at Boddington under Greenalls' plan to close four of-

North-west England. The plan is to save about £18m a year. In addition to paying the £8m or so to buy out the Boddington options, Greenalls faces reorganisation costs of about £23m. Mounting the bid will

cost about £16m. Both groups, whose combined value will be about

balf the 44 wholesale depots in £1.5bn, disposed of their breweries as the industry restructured following the Monopolies and Mergers Commission report in 1988.

They have made good profits thanks to the over-supply of brewing capacity. But the merger is necessary to maintain the pubs' purchasing power as the brewers rationalise capacity.

#### Managers pay £55m for Golden Wonder

NIGEL COPE

Golden Wonder, one of the UK's best-known brands of crisps, has been sold to its mangement for £54.6m. The deal includes the Wotsits, Nik Naks and Wheat Crunchies brands as well as those sold under super-market own labels.

The buyout of the Golden Wonder snacks business is bewind backed by Legal & General Ventures and led by Clive Sharpe, formerly a director of Golden Wonder and chief executive of Homepride Foods.

Once a powerful force in the snacks business, Golden Wonder has been struggling in the so-called "crisp wars" where Walkers, part of PepsiCo and KP owned by the beleaguered United Biscuits group, are the dominant players. The increasing buying power of the supermarket groups whose own-label crisps have been taking share has added to the squeeze.

The industry has been plagued by over-capacity and a price war that saw the price of a supermarket six-pack of crisps fall to just 29p at one stage last year. Golden Wooder made profits of £9m on sales of £150m in the year to June and had net assets of £72m.

The sale completes Dalgety's disposal of its consumer businesses, which were put on the block in February. This followed the company's £700m acquisition of the European pet food businesses of Quaker Foods. Dalgety bas raised £293m from the disposal programme. It had already sold Homepride sances for £58m and the Pot Noodles hot snacks business for £180m.

Dalgety shares rose 5p to

#### ing the past three months, the Total new orders have inalls' bid price of 412p a share, first increase reported since vey, closing slightly higher. But trading was quiet in advance of the options are worth £203,000. two years. A positive balance of mid-1989. However, compa-11 per cent of firms reported nies expect the long-term fall in Greenalls' offer document today's £3bn auction. fices in the Warrington area and One-stop advice: Minister rejects criticism as Business Links prepare to expand to 240 offices Small business help network goes national

**Business Editor** 

The Government has raised its target for new Business Links offices - one-stop advice centres for small businesses - to at least 240 to be open by next March. Richard Page, the small firms minister at the Department of

Trade and Industry, said the project was now ready to be put on a national footing as a network with coverage through the wbole of England. Mr Page, in an interview with the Independent, rejected criticisms of the effectiveness of Business Links as "unfair and

impatient", because so few of the 140 offices oow set up had

been fully commissioned for more than a year. Those that had settled down, such as the Birmingham Business Link, were producing "superb" stories about their

belp to business locally.
"We certainly have not got 140 fully up to speed delivering every service to the efficiency we would want to see. Some have just opened their doors and London is not even up and running," Mr Page said.

He wanted the service to be operating nationally and working to high common standards before critics should be allowed to make judgements about performance.

Mr Page promised there would be strict monitoring of service standards. The DTI also planned to employ "mystery shoppers" posing as small business managers to test Business

Links offices.
The Business Links began with a small number of pilot projects in 1993, building to 100 offices this spring. The current total of 140 is expected to expand by another 100 by the end of the financial year. Earlier this year the DTI estimated that the number would reach 200 by the



Setting the pace: Richard Page (right) praises Birmingham Business Link, where Alan Dow has 8,000 clients

The Links offices, and the similar enterprise networks in Scotland, are designed to provide a single retail outlet for all the DTT's services for small business, as well as those of the Chambers of Commerce, Train-

ing and Enterprise Councils. local authorities and other regionally based organisations. They are aimed at start-up business and existing firms that are expanding. The target mar-ket is firms with at least 10 employees. Until recently, small nesses have had to go to a confusingly large number of

sources for belp and advice. The TECs and other bodies involved are acting as partners with the DTI in the individual Business Links. But in some areas there are reports of serious teething troubles, such as disagreements over demarcation lines between the new offices and the older organisations that originally provided some of



Chambers of Commerce say Business Links should be regarded as retail outlets for small firm support services and should not take over a wider role as representatives of local

Mr Page said that because of the embryonic state of many of the Business Links, the DTI had held back from a national campaign to promote the service. and marketing bad been done only at a local level where individual offices were up and

President of the Board of

The national launch of the service is to be announced next Tuesday in a presentation at the Queen Elizabeth II conference centre in London by Ian Lang,

The Business Links will employ at least 600 personal business advisers and about 200 specialists, including about 80 export advisers, of whom eight are already in place. The other

advisers will have expertise in design, innovation and technology and Mr Page said be wanted the Business Links to work closely with clearing banks and other local sources of

He also wanted to them to become increasingly independent of state aid, by charging for their services: "I want them to be businesslike." The DTI predicts that the

total turnover of the Business Links offices will be about £100m a year by 1998-99, of which 20 to 25 per cent will be fee income from small firms a proportion Mr Page wants to increase in subsequent years. Earlier this year, the DTI an-

counced an extra £100m of funding for government advice services to be delivered through Business Links, spread over four years from the 1995-96

The Birmingham Business Link, one of the pilot projects,

now has turnover of £7m, of which about 25 per cent is already in the form of contributions from clients rather than the Government.

Birmingham has 130 staff, of whom 26 are employed directly. The rest are advisers operating under contract and staff seconded from Tecs, Birmingham City Council, the Chamber of Commerce and the West Midlands government offices.

Alan Dow, chief executive of the Birmingam Business Link, said that with 8,000 clients, the organisation had reached the stage where it could in theory even be privatised and survive, though that would restrict the range of services to those that were economic on a fee charg-

Other services the government is keen to see provided to small businesses on a subsidised basis might have to be dropped if the organisation were to be



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INSTRUMENTS FOR PROFESSIONALS

#### THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

Edited by TOM STEVENSON

#### Wolseley profit tap springs leak

who bas been crying wolf for as long as anyone can remember, looks like having his eternal pessimism proved right in his last year as chairman and

managing director of Wolseley. The Eevore of the building materials sector, he regularly accompanies stunning profits growth with a warning that it cannot last.

This year, however, he was un-equivocal - profits at the world's leading plumbers merchant will be no higher in the year to July 1996 than they

were in the period just reported. His gloomy prognosis, hardly a surprise at the end of what has been a pretty dismal reporting season for all the building groups, took the shine off atherwise impeccable figures. Profits jumped 2t per cent to £245.4m, struck from a 16 per cent increase in sales to £3.78bn. Earnings per share of 25.4p allowed a well-covered divideod of 9.8p, both figures 17 per cent higher

an a year ago. Looking ahead, the problems are across the board. At home, trading, which picked up before last Christmas, fell away sharply in the final quarter of the financial year. The French housing market failed to revive after the presidential elections, while growth in Austria slowed and competitioo increased since the country joined the

European Union in January.
Similar trends emerged in the US, where Wolseley has built a sizeable chain of 368 plumbing and heating sup-ply outlets and 76 lumber depots. Afier a strong first half, growth tailed off worryingly in the second six months.

That is the bad ocws. The good is that Wnlseley enters what it believes is only a pause in growth in exceptional shape financially. Gearing of 13 per cent is inconsequential, which means it can cootinue to boister flat underlying markets with growth through acquisitions. Cash flow is strong and return oo capital employed an impressive 20.2 per cent.

On the basis of flat forecast profits this year of £240m and £266.5m in the 12 months to July 1997, the shares stand oo a prospective price/earnings ratio for calendar 1996 of just over 12. That compares with a sector average of 11, a 10 per cent premium that is maintained in 1997 when Wolseley's rating of 11.1 times earnings compares with the building sector's 9.8 times.

That premium rating is probably justified given Wolseley's remarkable record over the years and after a 20 per

1994, the shares look safe enough. With three top directors due to retire at the same time next July, however, it would be surprising if the market didn't hold fire for a while. Unexciting.

#### Warning signs at McKechnie

McKechnie has had the look of a wellniled machine of late, shifting deftly out of metal bashing and into plastics and consumer markets such as curtain and shower rails. Profits have been boosted by a recovery in demand in many of its markets combined with the fruits nf an acquisition spree over the past two years - two large deals fol-lowed by eight smaller purchases have kept the momentum going.

The share price has risen accordingly, more than doubling from 192p in 1990 to more than 454p, justified, at first glance, by yesterday's results that looked like more of the same. Pre-tax profits were up 28 per cent to £45m on sales up a similar amount to £532m.

quired for £26m last year, made its first full-year contribution of £ 5.6m and the plastics divisioo performed strongly with profits up from £4m to £14m.

But there are some warning signs. The company said it had noticed a "pause in demand" in the current financial year which may lead to slower growth in the first half. Perhaps more worrying is the sharp setback in the Australian housing market where Mc-Kechnie has some exposure

In addition, McKechnie still achieves half its sales and more than half its profits in the UK, where a recovery in the housing and consomer markets is proving elusive. McKechnie's coosumer products divisioo includes busioesses in curtains, blinds and shelving as well as door furniture where it supplies B&Q. This leaves the company exposed to the weak housing market which has already hit the DIY retail-

The company plans to redress the balance with further growth in Europe and North America. Eveo so the warning was ennugh to knock 12p off the shares, which closed at 442p.

NatWest Securities is forecasting profits of £51m this year, putting them

Linread, the fasteners	group a	c- 00 a f	orward rat	ing of 12.	
Wo	Iseley	: at a	glance		
Mari	æt value: £2	.07bn, share	price 376p		
Five-Year record	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
Turnover (£bp)		1.95	2.49	3.25	3.78
Pre-tax profits (£m)	80.3	91.3	121,1	202.3	245.4
Earnings per share (pence)	7	13.2	16.8	25.4	29.7
Dividends per share (pence)	6.1	6.3	6.7	8.4	9.8
Gearing (%)	•		hare pric	e	-

The company sets great store by staff training and has an imaginative approach to motivation, including cash bonuses for appropriate responses to staff observers dropping into other pubs posing as customers. The success of the formula is reflected in strong growth in turnover per pub and return oo If Cobleigh is half as successful as

JD Wetherspoon and Regent Inns, shareholders will be well rewarded. It is encouraging that EAC, the venture capital backer which will own 50 per cent of the shares after flotation, is holding onto its stake after first dealings on 23 November. Worth looking at when the price is announced.

outlook for the UK economy uncertain

cloudy, there is little reason for the

shares to move any further ahead. High

**Pubs for nice** 

people' do nicely

It is hard to imagine why anyone would want to drink in a place mar-keted under the sign "Unspoilt pubs

for nice people" hut the rapid growth of Tom Cobleigh, the Yorkshire and

East Midlands pub operator, suggests

the company's food-focused, family

offering is pulling the customers in.
Very much a child of the Beer Orders'
transformation of the British pub mar-

ket, Tom Cobleigh is coming to the mar-

ket oext month with a placing to raise about £22m. It has grown fast since foun-

dation only three years ago, and now boasts 46 managed pubs, under the Tom

Cobleigh brand and 36 tenanted sites,

Typically large, out-of-town sites with large car parks, the pubs are based on the premise that food sells beer and

they geoerate more than a third of

turnover from the sale of meals, well

above the average for Britain's 63,000

pubs. An ambitious opening pro-gramme should see up to 18 pubs a year

added for the foreseeable future. Rapid growth has been reflected in

fast-growing profits, which bave grown from a £52,000 loss in the year to March

1993 to a profit of £1.6m from sales of

£14.8m in the latest full year. In the six months to the end of September, profits jumped again to £1.04m from sales of £9.5m.

trading as The Nice Pub Company.

#### Simon Pincombe CITY DIARY

#### True love and bubbly at a special Virgin price

A Virgin long-hanl crew quakes in its boots knowing that the bearded one will shortly have their guts for garters. There has been the most appalling mid-air blun-der and Richard Branson is

about to go ballistic. What was surely a rare chance to impress turned into a public relations disaster when Nick Bernheim, a Los Angeles screenwriter, boarded Virgin's Dallas to London flight with his girlfriend, Elizabeth Utz. Doubtless impressed by the legroom ("if your feet touch the seat in front you're on the wrong plane") Mr Bernheim was overcome with a strong desire

to propose marriage. Mrs Elizabeth Bernheim enwriters know how to woo) takes up the tale. "It was kinda nice," she says. "It is my first time to Europe and I was watching cartoons or something when Nicky suddenly proposed. I started cry-ing, I guess, and the women next to us heard it all and told the steward."

So far, so good. The captain duly relayed the engage-ment over the cabin radio and there followed a thunderous ovation throughout the fuselage. A Virgin steward was dispatched to the happy cou-ple with half a bottle of champagne. The moment was complete. Well, that is until the steward reappeared with a hill for £4.95 and presented it to the startled woman in the oext seat. "We were just so embarrassed," explains Mrs Bernheim from her honeymoon suite in Paris. Neither would the romantic accept reimbursement.

The casting of the film of the Barings disaster is proving to be trickier than at first thought. Our sources in the Frankfurt slammer report that Nick Leeson, architect of the £lbn bronhaha, is not happy at the suggestion of Hugh Grant for the lead. For that matter he is not wild about Miranda Richardson in the supporting role of his beloved wife, claim

Berry, the saturnine former Eastenders star. As for the role of Ms Leeson, we are happy to screen hopefuls for a fee.

Branson salute: that'll be £4.95 please! Photograph: PA

A stiff letter is on its way to the seminal work has been

Still, the Virgin incident could pale into insignificance compared with the expected passenger revolt at KLM. Royal Dutch Airlines introduces a smoking ban ou all its European flights oo 29 October. According to Bureau Voorlichting Tabak, a not-entirely-unbiased tobacco lobby, this will result in a quarter of all Dutch passengers switching to another air line. KLM is unbowed, claiming that its non-smoking policy will attract more ngers than it loses. Probably from Virgin.

Tomorrow sees the launch of the keenly awaited Corporate Strategies of the Top 100 UK Companies of the Future.
Published by McGraw Hill,

The actor Mr Leeson thinks will best portray him is Nick

compiled by the Corporate Research Foundation, working in cahoots with a platooo of Financial Times hacks. It

was due out in April. The surprise among the predictable entries - Marks & Spencer, British Airways, Glaxo Wellcome and Rentokil - is Davies Arnold Cooper, the law firm best known for working with victims of the Piper Alpha disaster, the Hillsborough tragedy and the Bradford football stadium fire. Led by the never knowingly undersold David Mackintosh (he of the Oxford Union debates et al.) the firm oow boasts annual fee income

The burning questioo is why the delay in publicatioo? Some have suggested that it was to allow further research on Pearson. Unhappily the FT owner is still oot included.

Seen in the window of the Nextep employment agency in London's Coopers Row. "Russian-speaking PA to MDir of Russian Oil company, SW1 - £16K. Free bottle of vodka to 1st applicant to walk thru the door."

#### Recs could be forced to split up

Industrial Correspondent

Offer, the electricity watchdog, warned that the regional elecbe forced to split their supply operations - in which they sell to the customer - from the distribution of electricity over the wires. Professor Stepben Littlechild, director-general of Offer, said he would consider such a separation in preparation for competition in the domestic market in 1998.

The threat to the fundamental structure of the industry emerges in Professor Little-

Italy's most ambitious merger

plan in years, the creation of a

giant industrial conglomerate

through the fusion of the loss-

making Mootedison-Ferruzzi

group with the holding com-

ony, Gemina, has collapsed fol-

COMPANY RESULTS

Bosomere Internetional (I) 33.7m (23.1m) 5.48m (3.75m) 13.2p (10.9p) 1.62p (1.975p)

533m (420m)

Pre-tax E EPS

10.5m (8.41m) -1.34m (-0.31m) -30.38p (-5.39p) nii (nii)

18.6m (16 Jm) 8.52m (11.3m) 5.9 (p (8.82p) 2.5p (2p)

3 78tm (3 25tm) 245m (202m) 29.72p (25 39p) 9.8p (8 39p)

11 3m (9.22m) 2.05m (1.70m) 13.2p (11.4p) 2.65p (2.4p)

6.44m (6.27m) 0.97m (0.87m) 5.5p (4.8p) 2.0p (mll)

lowing the lauoch of a judicial

(F) - Pical (II) - Intention (PO - Mine months

**ANDREW GUMBEL** 

Presport (F)

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the electricity sector.

supply activities. It would be to the Mooopolies and Merg- are still smarting from his uncrs Commission if I were to conclude that the present position is against the public interest."

"In the context of the 1998 diswhether to take further steps to require the greater separatioo of the Recs' distribution and opeo to me to make reference

The regulator's commeots come at a sensitive time in the industry, which is in the throes of a wave of takeovers. Bids for three regional firms have suc-

investigation into Gemina's ac-

In a severe blow to the pres-

tige of Italian business leaders involved in the deal, including

Gianni Agnelli, chairman of

Fiat. Gemina announced late on

Monday night that it was post-

poning the merger indefinitely hecause market conditions were

0.1m (0.07m) 0.7p (27p) al (-)

45 3m (35 3m) 33.8p (27.1p) 11p (9.75p)

couoting practices.

port from the Trade and In-dustry Select Committee oo planned acquisitions by North petition in both markets is in planned acquisitions by North West Water, National Power Professor Littlechild said: and PowerGeo are awaiting regulatory clearance.

Littlechild is considering radical changes in the businesses of the regional companies could be seco as deterrent for further hids. Investors in the industry expected decisioo earlier this year to re-opco price controls agreed only months previously.

At the same time, Montedi-

soo's financial arm, Ferfin, an-

nounced it was seeking more

than LI,000bn (£351.4m) in

new capital -a signal that it was already looking for other solu-

The decision to create Italy's

second-largest industrial con-

glomerate, producing every-

thing from chemicals to

encyclopedias, caused a sensa-

tioo when it was announced in

September because it had been

negotiated in secret and con-

centrated considerable power in

the hands of a few players -

among them Mr Agnelli and Enrico Cuccia, the 87-year-old

honorary chairman of Medio-banca, the merchant bank.

The deal was never popular

with smaller shareholders, who

considered they had been used

as pawns in a high-level power

tions to its debt problems.

The responses to the Select Committee also show that the Government may consider merging the gas and electricity regulators, Ofgas and Offer,

Montedison-Gemina merger collapses

petition in both markets is in place. But the Government stresses that there is no case for a merger until that time and also ulatory panel, rather than an in-

dividual watchdog would be

more effective in each industry. The Government also attacks the committee's call to impose a duty on regulators to give reasons for the decisions they make. "The Government eschews unnecessary regulation. It therefore sees no oeed for a formal requirement [oo the regulators to do what, as a matter of good working practice, they do already."

game, and raised eyebrows

among international investors

who questioned the wisdom of

creating a loss-making behe-

moth when large conglomerates are going out of fashion.

weeks ago, when Milan magis-

trates announced they were

placing 10 senior Gemina ex-

ecutives under investigation for

irregularities, including an L800bo bole in the accounting

figures for the past 18 months.

The investigation is continuing.

Gemina's share price, which had stood at L908 at the time

of the merger announcement,

has dropped in the past six weeks to about L600 - creating serious arithmetical problems in

the nnts and bolts of the merg-

er. A temporary postponement had already been announced a

The severest blow came two

#### Scholl board scrapes through in vote called by rebel shareholders

The board of Scholl, the bealthcare products group, narrowly survived a crucial vote called by rebel shareholders at an ill-tempered extraordinary meeting

The meeting was called by a group of dissident shareholders who want the company to sell itself and who proposed that three of their representatives should replace three current board members.

The dissident shareholders won 41.9 per cent support for the resolution that would have led to the new board appointments and 40.5 per cent of the vote for the one that would have resulted in the three board members being deposed. Both votes required a majority.

Gordon Stevens, chairman, started the meeting by calling for questions on the resolutions and then tried to stymie Brian Myerson, a director of the UK Active Value Fund and one of the rebel shareholders, when Mr Myerson said peace talks held before the meeting had broken down due to the "intransigence

Mr Stevens told him a broadranging speech was not appropriate for the meeting, before giving way to him on condition he did not give "a long tirade", and that he kept to the narrow subject of the resolutions.

After a comple of minutes of heated exchanges between the two men another shareholder declared: "Mr Myerson's re-

marks are cotirely appropriate. Mr Myerson, eocouraged by this, said the board had been ve hemently opposed to establishing whether the business would be worth more if it were sold to a third party. Its struc-

tural fault was its high distribution costs. Mr Myerson said the board's behaviour had been questiooable. "Why concentrate on personal attacks on ourselves, with the hiring of private investigators? We are oot going away, we will intensify our campaign," he

After Mr Myerson sat down, Julian Treger, his colleague and fellow director of the UK Active Value Fund, took to the floor and immediately clashed with the Scholl chairman over whether Mr Stevens had earlier confirmed to him that he had

received takeover approaches. "I would not have talked to you about something like that under any circumstances," Mr Stevens firmed.

"I attempted to explain to you that I found your analysis superficial in the extreme. Please do not put words into my mouth," he added. "I am sick and tired of these innuendoes you and your group describe."
Mr Treger said be and the fel-low dissident shareholders, who own just more than 15 per cent in Scholl, cared very much about the company. "We have a £23m investment, far larger than yours," he told the board. The UK Active Value Fund's



Stormy meeting: Gordon Stevens, chairman of Scholl

average purchase price is be-lieved to be under 170p a share, so it is showing a healthy prof-it so far. Yesterday Scholl shares closed down 5p at 210p.

It emerged yesterday that
the Scholl board had made

last-minote attempts to cancel the meeting by alleging there was a technical problem with the resolutions that prevented them from being put to the meeting.

A lawyer for the rebels said he was contacted by the company 22 hours before the meeting and told there were legal objections to the resolutions. The UK Active Value Fund then arranged for a meeting with a

tioo to force the board to put the resolutions to shareholders, when the board backed down. After the meeting the Scholl DEDING VEHTER INTO

INCININ

chairman said he hoped the management would be allowed to drive forward the company's strategy without further cost and distraction. Mr Stevens said during the meeting that the rebel shareholder affair had cost the company about £500,000 in additional costs.
One board director said it had

taken up 14 hours a day for seven weeks.

In spite of the rebels' defeat, the board will continue discussions with JO Hambro & Partjudge in the Company Court to ners with a view to appoint to try to get a mandatory injunction a non-executive director. ners with a view to appointing

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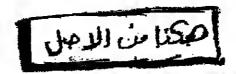
629.5m shares,

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market report/shares

#### Takeover spotlight turns on vulnerable CE Heath

There is a growing suspicion that CE Heath, one of the City's hard-pressed insurance brokers, is set to become the subject of corporate activity. The sadly neglected shares suddenly came to life, climb-

ing 8p (after 11p) to 158p in, for what has become a tired and wilting stock market constituent, busy trading.
They are still perilously close to their low. Their high, 517p

reached four years ago, is but a distant memory for long-standing shareholders. The group has been hit by tough trading in the insurance market, the Lloyd's of London disaster as well as falling pub-lic confidence in the life and

pensions industry.

It is clearly vulnerable to a takeover strike, with an overseas group the most likely predator. James Capel, putting a break-up value of 240p on the sbares, helped stoke up bid

But it is the feeling that the first signs of a revival are detectable at the battered broker which has created the current round of interest. And if the dividend is held, as some expect, the shares are returning more than 13 per cent.

Heath has been cutting its overheads and drawing in much-needed cash through asset sales. On Monday it realised £16m from its 50 per cent holding in a Hong Kong group. Earlier, it unloaded an Aus-tralian interest for £28.7m.

There are suggestions its telesales broking operation is making unexpectedly strong headway, but it is the possibility Heath is edging oearer to floating its computer side that could provide the main impe-tus. In current market conditions its Datasure and Peterborough Software offshoots could command a rich price. The rest of the market sim-

ply went through the motions

FOOD MANUFACTURERS



MARKET REPORT DEREK PAIN

awaiting today's £3bn govern-ment stock auction but, oevertheless, appreciating the rather calmer conditions in the foreign exchange markets and a firm New York opening. Gilts gave further ground.
The FT-SE 100 index moved oarrowly, ending 3.8 points higher at 3,535.3.

Glazo Wellcome followed Monday's upsurge with an 8.5p (after 22p) gain 10 857.5p.
Drug second-liners were back in demand, with Celltech and Oxford Molecular sought-after. Banks also had their fans, with Merrill Lynch said to be

positive. The latest US take-

over excitement contributed.

INVESTMENT COMPANIES

timates of the cash inflow National Westminster Bank will achieve from the planned sale of its American banking side. NatWest gained 14.5p to 651.5p. Standard Charlered, up 14p at 499p, also gathered support on revived takeover

gossip and Bank of Scotland edged forward 2.5p to 258p. Prudential Corporatioo's planned move into direct banking did not, as might have been expected, have an inhibiting impact oo the sector. Indeed, it prompted thoughts BAT Industries could feel the oced to round off its financial

side with a banking buy.

Tak'N was ruffled by more asbestos worries, skidding op to

160p. Holliday Chemicals, computer hardware and soft-meeting analysts, rose 8p to ware, jumped 16p to 211p. 194p. Caradon, the building Hopes are riding high the materials group, was heavily traded, sticking at 198p.

Northern Foods again edged forward. The shares improved 2p to 186p in often brisk trading. The group, which has found trading difficult, has met City investors but the nagging feeling that corporate action lurks is cootinuing to influence the price.

influence the price.

Acorn Computer gained 5p to 158p and Magnum Power, reflecting a new patent for

reflecting a new patent for protecting computer data if there is a power failure, jumped 26p to 142p.

Magnotia, a loss-making picture frame group, plunged 11p to 29p as Northampton Acquisitions bid 27p a share. The offer is already past the post, with shareholders representing 58.47 per cent of Magnolia 58.47 per cent of Magnolia

group will produce a sharp profits improvement. There has been market talk sales are running significantly ahead of budget and Tim Steer at Merrill Lynch is looking for half there are profits due in Dehalf-year profits, due in De-cember, of £1.4m, up from

£500,000 last year. First Leisure Corporation blissfully ignored the NatWest Securities profit downgrade, gaining 5p to 328p.

Middlesex, which has an-

nounced a joint venture with RTZ to cover exploration of its Nevada properties, is expect-ed to strengthen its board today with a significant appointment. The shares held at 8.25p.

Millgate returned to market at 19p with the nil-paid shares moving from 5p to 7p. It has been the subject of a reverse

FT-SE 100 INDEX HOUR BY HOUR

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TAKING STOCK

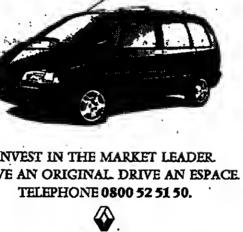
Plantation & General, for-merly called Chillington Corporation, edged forward 3p to 60p. Interim figures are due tomorrow. They are expected to show a sharp advance on last time's £971,000. But the results could be accompanied by an announcement that the group has sold a 1,000hectare property in Indonesia for approaching £10m. Most likely buyer is the Indonesian government. P&G has been reshaping; earlier this year it floated its Langdon Foods

The signalled takeover bid for Casket, the deeply trou-bled cycle maker, should soon materialise. The offer, from another quoted company, is likely to be around last night's 7p close. The group suffered losses of £12.3m, largely due to problems at its German offshoot, which went

bankrupt earlier this year.

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Bad by Halling

Carla raises Cecil's hopes for Classics

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#### Bad blood over Halling drug use

antine here this morning with their Breeders' Cup elixirs established: Halling will run on Lasix, Lake Coniston on car-

Butter of HALL

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W. V.

The state of the s

The former's reliance on the drug for the first time in his racing career at Belmont Park nn Saturday will upset the traditionalist back in Blighty. But the harsh realists of New York believe the colt needs medication and a substantial head start if he is in make a race of the Classic with Cigar.

The thought that Cigar's uninterrupted sequence of 11 vic-tories is about to be terminated is nnt even a speck in the collective mind of the locals. If pushed to look beyond a winner they suggest Peaks And Val-leys will beat Halling fur the runner's-up vacancy.

Given its venal reputation, it is something of a surprise that New York took until last month to open itself np pharmaceutically in line with the rest of racing America. As Cigar has had more pms in him that a porcupine (he runs on both Lasix and Bute), the men behind Halling insist their horse must do the same if he is to compete with any great significance.

Simon Crisford, the racing manager of Godolphin, Halling's owners, admitted yesterday that the chestnut needed Lasix for more than a morale

Britain's horses will clear quaron the move to bolster Britain's main hope in the quest for the Breeders' Cup Classic

> has burst blood vessels in previous races. The maxim Godolphin are using is that when in

But back in Britain, where the drug is banned, the mood seems to be that two wrongs do not make a right. David Pipe, the Jockey Club spokesman, said

> RICHARD EDMONDSON **NAP: Fantasy Racing** (Yarmouth, 2.00) NB: Waders Dream (Yarmouth, 3.10)

yesterday: "If trainers feel they must use medication in the United States there is little we can dn about it. If they think it helps them achieve a level play-ing field that is their decision, but the United States stands alooe in their use of these

If ethics can be tipped into a skip, however, (and the Breed-ers' Cup prize fund tends to provide a stirrup in this matter) the statistics show Lasix works. Last year the first six in the Classic had each been rubbed with a swab before competition and the pattern in New York since medicatinn was brought in has

2.00 Fantasy Racing 2.35 Balladur

GOING: Firm. STALLS: Far side. DRAW ADVANTAGE: High for 5f to 1m.

Left-hand course, level and fair.

jection for his supporters. He been of improved performance. Horses seem to achieve a new level on the drug, particularly after the early administration.

Halling will oeed this hoist, especially as his team now seem uncertain that he will adapt to the dirt surface. It was thought that Dubar's all-weather champion would cross over with simplicity to the Belmont track, but that opinion has changed slightly on inspection of a course that was so badly flooded on Saturday that racing had to be abandoned. Halling is generally a 5-2 chance, with Cigar on 4-6.

Much of the early information at the Breeders' Cup is dis-

seminated in great Letter To Brezhnev style through the latticed fence of the quarantined compound. Geoff Lewis entered the quarters yesterday with the information that his Lake Coniston would be the beneficiary of another drug, the anti-inflammatory substance Bute, in the Sprint. "He's had a long, 15-hour journey and he might be a hit stiff so you have to take all the advan-

tages," the trainer said. Lewis, though, seemed to place more emphasis on the contents of the carrier bag he had filled at a Garden City su-

3.45 Introducing

Bact-nand course, keet and lar.
Baccomse is north of town on A148. Bus link from Yarmouth reliway station (served by London, Liverpool Street, via Norwich), which is 1 mile away. 'ADMISSION': Club 5.12; Tanzensalis 58.50; Family and course enclosure 54.50. CAR PARE: 51.

M JEADING TRAINERS WITH EUNNERS: H Coeff - 25 winners from 97 runners gives a success ratio of 26.8% and a loss to a level stake of 525.68; M Scoute - 22 wins, 109 runners, 20.2%, -512.89; H Thomson Jones - 21 wins, 89 rides, 23.6%, +538.16; J Gooden - 20 wins, 81 rides, 22.6%, -530.8.

LEADING JOCKEYS: M Roberts - 37 wins, 199 rides, 18.6%, +578.29; E Wills - 82 wins, 163 rides, 20.9%, +527.92; L Dettorf - 28 wins, 151 rides, 18.5%, -540.11; M Hills - 26 wins, 151 rides, 17.2%, +5.0.07.

HINNERED PHET TWEE 2man Phase C 100

— 25 wins, 151 trices, 17.2%, +3.0,07.
ELINKERED FIRST TIME: Zamo Physr (3.10).
WINNERS IN LAST SEVEN DATE: Speaces's Revenge (3.10) won at Yaumouth on Wednes.

day. LONG-DISTANCE EUNNERS; Hove With Edes (4.15) was sent 255 miles by W.G.M.Tum-er from Corton Denham, Someonet, Gagagian (1.25) was sent 242 miles by P.D. Bruns from

LITTLE NOGGENS was that to two fast-improving sursery houses – Lunar Mist and Swynford Pyer – over this trip at Newmarket two roces ago, and she would surely have finished closer to Lunar Mist at Newmarket (6) best time but for being drawn one and racing up the standar side. Judged on those performances, Utile Noggins can be fancied to give swy the weight but Geographia, well suited by five furiongs on fast ground, can make a race of it. She has been on the go since April but her sidth of 18 behind Swynford Pyer at Cattenck last time suggestes sine as holding her form pretty well. Dender Pyer comes a 70 penetty for winning a melden auction at Folkestone last week but he is obviously in good shape and is 55b better off for the neck that Gaspiatu been threat Brighton in Augist. Here For Ten stays are furiongs but could have the pose to win at this trip after making most of the running when that to odds-on Missile in a melden at Portefract. Governors Dreses has not shown much but mister do better now she is viscored and canters a low weight in a master, and

2.00 CORTON CONDITIONS STAKES (CLASS C) £8,000 added 6f Penalty Value £5,108

- 5 declared - . BETTING: 7-4 Howdon Rose, 11-4 Susseedo, 7-2 Fluxt Vell, 4-1 Fastney Racing, 12-1 Monjects.

FORM GUIDE

in terms of races won, SASEEDO has not had as successful a season as Bowdon Rose or Factorsy Recing, but Bowden Rose was able to make the most of a favourable handicap

but might do better now she is visored and carries a low weight in a nursery.

election: LITTLE NOGGINS.

1994: Needle Gun 4 9 2 M Roberts 8-13 (C E Brit

FORM GUIDE

ND NURSERY HA

25 5f 43yds Penalty Value £3,655



Back to Lasix: Halling will have pharmaceutical help when taking on Cigar on Saturday Photograph: George Selwyn

...M Hills 4

permarket that morning. Inside appeared to describe them as a

was Lake Coniston's favourite mechanic might his monkey wrench in a documentary last feed, a bunch of carrots. Saturday provides the colt's swan song and Lewis has not yet dared think about the gap he will leave at his Epsom yard.

2.35 EBF HERRINGFLEET MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £6,000 added 2YO 7f Penalty Value £4,932

BETING: 7-4 Belladar, 5-2 Royal Caspecia, 4-1 Mercoo Hall Batal, 6-1 Mandad, 10-1 Medienal Lady, 14-1 Estrumely Pricestly, 16-1 others, 1994: Peace Envoy 2-9 0 Pat Eddery 1-2 01 R A Cecil) 13xm:

FORM GUIDE

Medieval Lady's promising fifth of 17 behind SJ SIs at Warwick looks even better in the light of SJ Sis's success in a Listed race of Newbury on Saturday (the Warwick second, Hisate, also won next unre) but whether Medieval Lady can improve enough to best the cotts is another motier. With Henry Codi's horses, particularly the two-year-olds, going so well at present, BALLADUR is worth another chence after fairing to justify feworitism first time up at Leienster. He was not swent a head race once Don Micheletin and Winner Rowance stott.

with the benefit of a race of two! had his measure. The Lelcester fourtit, Ashar, went on to with early as Linglied on Manufay and Peace Envoy won that least year for the seme connections efter being besten in his previous race. Newcomers to consider include Royal Canasaka and Marwhud. Royal Canasaka as trained by David Loder, whose juvanides have a habit of winning first time our, eithough Manuful is also form a year that wins its share of mations with a newcomer. Marwhud might have the edge, as Tom Jones two winners here last woek took his Yarmouth botal to 1.1. for the season. Meaco Hell Setael is a half-brother to Weldman, placed in Group races as a two-year-old after winning a malcen for Ben Hanbury back in 1988.

3.10 NEWPORT CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS F) £3,650 added 7f Penalty Value £3,099

BETTING: 3-1 Spencer's Revenge, 9-2 Hasbant, 6-1 Berge, Our Shadoe, 7-1 Samsolom, 12-1 Tomal, Waders Drown, 14-1 others.
1994: Blowedifinow 4 9 8 1 Quin 7-1 (I Wharton) 10ran

Nashbast won a 20-runner selling handloop under 10 stone at Leicester a couple of weeks ago and, with John Stock on board once more, he gets a total of 17th from SPENCER'S REVENCER. In the circumstances, Mick Ryan's runner looks as though he will have to be bother than ever to land his fourth successive race but Spencer's Revenge is book in a cleamer after coming with a strong late run to win an 18-runner handloop over this seven furiongs last Wednesdey, when Sammadous (3th worse off) was five and a half lengths away sorth. Easily-Mick has seven furier since her Newmarket success over a mile back on June 23, so the fact that Action Juckson got to within half a length of her that day suggests he

Lewis has not forgotten that horses bought his passage nut of an early career as a bell boy. Certainly, Lewis seems to invest "Without them I would probamore emotion in his horses bly be head doorman at a hnthan some British trainers, who mark when completing her hat-finck in the summer and five of Fantasy Recing's six wins have been in deliming races. Since he best 20 others at Newmarket in May, Sessedo has ravely run poorly in competitive handlepps and this my will suit han better then the five furious he has tackled in his last two races at Newmarket. First Veill must put behind her a poor showing at Haydock lest time, but she had run well in hig fields of handlespers beforehand and is not out of it, getting weight from the top three, Mosajeob's neck second to Uttle flor in a huge field at Nothingtain last Thursday was in a 0-65 race and he is up against it at these weights. Selection: SASSEDO

#### Sanders sways Rival

Amanda Sanders was highly El Bailador by three quarters of praised after riding Rival Bid to a length. victory at Leicester yesterday. gelding with a well-judged chal-

At the same track, Alan Daly, The 23-year-old apprentice the apprentice partner of run-brought Norma Macauley's ner-up Edao Heights, was handed a two-day suspension lenge tn beat Richard Hills on fnr improper riding.

can win a race of this sort, although he has not been out since being well-besten on the all-weather at Wolverhampton in early September. Berge's Southwell win back in March fol-towed a break of almost four months, so he could go well even though he lacks a resent outing. Berge has won on fast ground on turf, but he is better on the all-weather and will do well to cope with Spencer's Reverge and Nasheat on these terms. That also applies to the likes of Our Shadee and Tornal, who have been running well recently,

#### 3.45 RANWORTH MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £5,500 added 2YO 1m Penalty Value £4,628 DIM Pertailty Value £4,628 Bright Water (K Abdula) H Cecl 90 5 CLASSIC COLDURS (USA) (LA) (Classe Bloodsteck Pic) S Williams 90 5 MALERIO (15) (S P C Woods) S Woods 90 2 MUSH (LS) Rended R Maddourd H Thomson Jones 90 0 BOSSEL (USA) (27) (Shelth Mathemmed M Stores 90 0 SOLDIER MMX (42) (A Low) A Hide 90 0 SULTOR (13) (Lost Housed de Walden) W Javes 90 AETHER (USA) (Hermonds Suct) (Lady Hernes 8 9 0 DOUBLE UP (28) (Lody Hermes) Lady Hernes 8 9 1 DOUBLE UP (28) (Lody Hermes) Lady Hernes 8 9 1 BORRODICONG (16) (BT) (George Standordge) J Gooden 8 9 STADELE (URA) (Mis Virgina Keels Physion) O Lody 8 9 51 ADELE (URA) (Mis Virgina Keels Physion) O Lody 8 9 13 declared N Tobbett 12 R Cochrane 9 ...... Quinn 7 ....8 Hind 13

BETTERG: 9-4 introducing, 3-1 Bright Water, 4-1 St Adela, 9-2 Ryssh, 10-1 Rossel, 12-1 Aefina, 25-1994: Trainey 2 8 0 J Quinn 10-1 (J E Banks) 15ren.

FORM GUIDE Edighestone won a division of the malden here last week and Lady Corla obliged at Lerrinter yesterday, so the chances are that their stablemane, BRIGHT WATER, can olso will see that their stablemane, BRIGHT WATER, can olso will see first time of poking and continue Henry Cecif's excellent run at the process. B. ... "Vister is a full brother to Tenby, whose three juvenile wins for Khelid Abdullah, Henry Cecif and Par, Eddery in 1992 included the Group One Grand Oftenum at Longchamp. Cool 146 interest rat, casesy in Landau are drout one orant contenting at the properties of in-some idea of what is needed to beat Jiyush because he siso trains frost Buck, who had a couple of lengths to spare over Torn Jones's runner at Leicester. With the benefit in that run and his stable gisting its share of winners, Juyah looks the danger. Although Roscola should improve for his run in the Newmarket maken won by Astor Place, pick of the others could be Introducing, runner-up to Bright Woter's well-regarded stablemate, Prickett, at Sandown (1m) on her debut.

#### 4.15 CALIFORNIA HANDICAP (CLASS E) £5,000 added 7f Penalty Value £3,915

1	065503	HICKORY BLUE (6) (Mrs Christine Goffin) Mrs. N Macauley 5 10 0S Drowne (3) 13
2	103035	SPANISH STREPPER (USA) (76) (Tony Section M Chapmen 49 12
3	01-8541	MOVE WITH EDES (112) (CD) (W Ede & Co Parmersho) W Turner 3 9 8 A Eddery (7) 1
4	610-40	LABUDD (USA) (US) (BF) (Peter Stac) R Indian 5 9 7. R Hale 7
5	030205	MOROCCO (RE) (7) (D) (Martin Myers) M Channon 696
5	0-06000	MERLIN'S FANCY (16) (Ats R 8 Kennard) W Janes 3 8 2 W Ryan 6
7	00402	DARCEY BUSSELL (7) (W J Geodey) N Wingto 3 9 1Dane O'Nelli (5) 4
3	420404	LOYE LEGEND (6) (D) (George 5 Thompson) O Arbustnot 10 8 13T bess 10
3		AHJAY (7) (D) SR J Thomes) O Wilson 5 89
Ю	356002	NO SPEECHES (IRIE) (7) & M Open C Oper 4 8 9
Ц	245500	AGOER (27) (Mrs C E Bollan) C Britan 388. B Doylo 12
12	034045	MERRIE LE BOW (5) (H20 Nightspot) Pat Mischell 3 8 3
L3	000-50	HYLTERS GIRL (42) (Mrs Karole Varin) M Ryan 3 7 8
		- 13 doclared -
Œ	TING: 7-2	Mornecou, 4-1 Dercey Bussell, 6-1 No Speeches, 8-1 Ahlay, Merrie Le Bow, 10-1 High-

ory Blee, Love Lagend, 12-1 others. 1994: Ertion 4 10 0 M Roberts 9-1 (C E Britain) 20ran

FORM GUIDE.

DARCEY BUSSELL was with Barry Hills when second to Neuwest in a mile maiden on similar test ground here a week ago but she might be good enough on her first stan for her new stable after that improved performance on fast ground similar to today's. Regar lingarm won the selling handcap at the last meeting with Total Rach and Labeted con be given enother chance on the strength of his fourth to Swinging Staties at Goodwood, his first run for the yord. Morrie Le Bow was fifth in the 21-uniner Dondarier race won by Master Chartor last Friday and will find this easer but, at the other and of the handcap, Hickory Blue has a bit to prove as far as staying this distance is concerned, so he will be pushed to give awey the weight. Morrocco and old Love Legical are running well enough, while Abjay is only 10 higher than he was when beating 16 others over this trip at Salisbury in May and Michael Roberts is an encouraging choice of inder.

#### -YARMOUTH. Carla raises Cecil's hopes

A record-breaking performance by Henry Cecil's filly Lady Carla at Leicester yesterday put her into contention for Classic success oext year. She runs in the colours of Wafic Said, who also owns the Cecil-trained Bosra

Sham, favourite for next year's

for Classics

1000 Guineas. Lady Carla was having in her first race yesterday, but stretched clear in the closing stages of the Hoby Maiden Stakes to win by four lengths from Geoeral Macarthur in 1 min 34.5sec, nearly one and a half seconds faster than the previous record for a two-yea over a mile at Leicester. Fast groung and a strong tailwind certainly helped.

Pat Eddery, who rode her yesterday, said. "I know Mr Cecil likes her a lot and I think she could be an Oaks filly next year, whereas Bosra Sham is a speed filly."

#### RACING RESULTS LEICESTER

1.45: 1. THORDES (CDate); 7-1; 2. Blue Suede Hoofs 14-1; 3. Mindrese 50-1. 19 ran, 10-1,1 fav Damond Beech, 1/s, sht-hd. (P. Makin). Tota: £7-50; £2-10, £2-50, £6.60, Duni Forcost: £78.70, CSF: £91.37. 26,80, Dual Forcest: £78,70, CSF: £91.37. The: £213.20. Non Runner: Polish Lady. 2.15: 1. TONYS GIFT (Dane O'Neil) 2-1 fer: 2. Dr Calignet 16-1; 3. Burnt Sleane 14-1; 20 ran. 2, ¼, (R Harmon), Tote: £2.30; £1.20, £2.40, £4.80. DF: £11.50. CSF: £32.48. The: £51.90. DF: £11.50. CSF: £32.48. The: £51.90. CSF: £41.35. Tavenick 25-1, 12 ran. 9-4 fer Hayenin. 4, 3½. df Cecil), Tote: £3.40; £1.50, £6.00, £9.00. DF: £68.90. CSF: £41.36. The: £192.40. Non

£66.90, CSF: £41.36. Tric: £192.40. Non

E66.90. CSF: £41.36. Trics £192.40. Non Rurmer: Chauselin. 3.15: 1. SECRET ALY (8 Doyle) 10-1; 2. Zegloo 11-4 fav; 3. Star Mannager 14-1 13: san, hd, 14), (6 Britzen). Note: £15.30; £5.20, £1.70, £4.50. DF: £23.50. CSF: £37.64. Tricset: £363.92. Trics £81.90. 3.48: 1. LOVELY LYCA (R Hills) 5-1; 2. Edun Neights 2-1 fav; 3. Deriter 11-2, 9 san. 4, 4, (4 Hills). Tother £61.07: £1.70, £1.40. £1.40. DF: £7.70. CSF: £14.58. Thos: £78.10.

228.10.

15:1. RTVAI. BID (Amande Sendem) 6-1:2. El Ballador 5-1:3. Ducking 16-1. 14 van. 5-2 fav Trames Side. 44, rk. (Mrs N Maceutey), Totae: 55.00; £2.50. £1.60. £1.60. DF: £27.00. CSF: £37.16. Tricast: £432.87. 7rio: £388.50. NF: Braydon Forest, Dia George, Hewidet, Pistol, Rock the Barney, Jackspot: £96.489.10 (£60.907.87 to Yarmouth today). Placespot: £2,862.30. Quedpot: not won £265.88 to Yarmouth). Place 6: £388.87. Place 8: £55.90.

REDCAR

REDCAR

1.30: 1. MISTER JOEL & Meloney) 9-2;
2. Time To Tump 7-4 fee; 3. Cornicine Quant
5-1.11 ram. Ind. 1/4. (M W Easterby). Total
65.1.11 ram. Ind. 1/4. (M W Easterby). Total
65.1.11 ram. Ind. 1/4. (M W Easterby). Total
65.1.10: £16.3.0.
2.00: 1. TIMES QF TIMES (C RUTLE) 81; 2. Time To Fry 20-1: 3. Beas River 9-4
1se; 4. Sandblester 8-1. 20 ram. 3, stri-di.
(M Ryan). Total: £8.70: £2.5.0, £3.70,
£1.30, £2.00. DF: £78.70. CSF: £161.49.
TICASE £54.15. Tits: £267.50.
2.30: 1. SHABAMAZ (C RUTLE) 6-5 fee; 2.
Huntan Story 9-1; 3. Goodbye Millio 4-1.
13 ram. 1/4. (M Mul). Total: £2.00; £1.30.
£2.30, £1.20. DF: £16.60. CSF: £12.92. Tits:
£9.40.
2.00: 1. ANOTHER TIME (M WOODS 7-2
co fee; 2. Depolitis 12-1: 3. Goods Park 7-

29.40.
3.00: 1. ANOTHER TIME (W WOODS) 7-2
CO Ray, 2. Despitts 12-1; 3. Ocean Park 72 CO Ray, 9 Tan. 7-2 CO Ray Ziccaron. 1, 2
S WOODS, Tobas E-51, 51.70; 52-40, 51.60.
DF: £27.40. CSF: £42.03. Tide: £71.20.
3.30: 1. NEEHT WENK (Menth Despit) 121; 2. Pines Ridge Lad 13-1; 3. Minesian 72 Ray. 14 Tan. 5, 114. (D Nicholds), 7ober £10.40; £3.30. £3.10, £1.90. DF: £55.50.
GSF: £127.73. Tidead: £516.07. Tide: £57.00.
4.00: 1.14 WOLDA (R.Hughest) 9-4; 2. Roseas In The Smow 4-5 tay, 3. Karlsman 4-1. 5 tan. Ind, 11. (I Professiol), Tobas £3.60; £2.50.
4.00: 1. QUILLENG (Dean McKeown) 101; 2. King Rast 20-1; 3. Super Bears 25-1.
15 Tan. 9-2 tay Mister Wasteourd (Sth), 4s.
2va. (M Doubs, Tobas £12.30; £4.40, £7.00, £5.80. DF: £318.20. CSF: £188.06. Tidead: £4.384.16. Tides £54.30.

£4.384.18. THO: £544.30.

RACELÎNE FULL RESULTS SERVICE 0891-168-168 WTHE INDEPENDENT Horse Racing Resonta 0839 - 111 171 Y'MOUTH |101 |201 30 Commentary 0839 - 111 175 CHELT'HAM 102 202 302 FONTWELL 103 203 303 Calculation of the partie of the said.

Other transport of the partie of the said. IRISH 120 220 320

#### FORTWELLY .... ·· HYPERION 35 Cobb Gate 2.10 Columbile 2.45 by Edith 3.20 Shirley's Train 3.55 Handsome Ned 4.25 Little Chink

GOING: Good to firm.

Left-hand hardle counse; figure-of-eight-chase course. Tight circuit, not suitable for long-striding houses.

Racecourse is senth of village at junction of A29 and A27. Barnham railway studion (Brighton - Portsmouth line) is 2 miles awarden ADMISSION: Chub 1:22, Junior Club (12 to 15-year-olds) 32, mider 12s Tree; Tattersalls S8 (seconopanied under-16s free); Silver Ring 54. CAR PARK: Picnic area 54 plus 54 (or each occupant remainings free.

THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: Stableford Lady (2.45) won at Bretted on Transky: Bures (2.45) won at Pakerham on Pridge, LONG-DESTANCE EUNINERS: Springtime Affair (1.35) has been sent by 180 miles by Mrs N Macsaley from Springton, Leicz.

1.35 ANNUAL MEMBERS SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS G) £2,400 added 2m 2f

2.10 RESEARCH FOR THE CRIPPLED CHILD NOVICES' CHASE (CLASS E) £4,000 added 3m 2f 110yds 2496/2P. CAPSIZE (336) A Moore 8 11 0 ...

SETTING: 5-2 Colomolilo, 3-1 Capatro, 4-1 bly Senor, 9-2 Queen's formed, 6-1 Equity Flayer, 8-1 Fettinotice.

2.45 STREBEL RADIATORS HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D) £3,500 added 2m 2f

3.20 DEREK WIGAN MEMORIAL NOVICES' H'CAP CHASE (CLASS F) £3,500 added 2m 2f 4-23112 SHIRLEY'S TRAIN (20) P Hobbs 8 12 0 Peter Hobbs 44-0113 COME ON DANCER (SE) (CD) (SF) J White 7 11 8 

3.55 VEUVE CLICQUOT AMATEUR RIDERS' H'CAP CHASE (CLASS F) £3,500 added 2m 3f

- 8 declared -BETHNG: 9-4 Zajica, 3-1 Rainbow Castle, 4-1 Time Enough, Hard Ned, 8-1 Upward Surga, 12-1 Mirago Dancer, 14-1 others. 4.25 MIDDLETON MAIDEN HURDLE (CLASS E) £2,800 added 2m 6f

#00P-53 CLASH OF CHIBALS (11.1) Moore 8 11.3 \_\_\_\_\_W McFartend LITTLE CHIRK O Grand 5 11.3 \_\_\_\_\_W Mc Fartend 1.6- THE REPROBATE (304) C System 8 11.3 \_\_\_\_\_ J A McCastley VANCOURER LAD Mis. Lowel 6 11.3 \_\_\_\_\_ W Musta (7.1) Mark Chipmen 4 11.2 \_\_\_\_\_ W Musta (7.1) Mark Chipmen 4 11.2 \_\_\_\_\_ F McLoughille (3.1) COPEOP MY BOOKS ARE REST (230) H Rowsell 8 10.12 \_\_\_\_\_ A Yory

- 7 deciment BETTENE: 9-4 Stanfor Star, 5-2 The Reproducts, 5-1 Cleah of Cymbais, 8-1 Little Chiat, Rainsheck, 22-1 Vancouver Let, 33-1 My Scott Art Seat.

**Another in time for Woods** Sean Woods to his 20th success

Another Time, strongly sup- won the Teleprompter Limited ported to win at Redcar yes. Stakes by a length. "All my terday, took Newmarket trainer staff have worked hard this year and I promised them a of the season. The three-year-nld, one of three co-favourites. Slap-up breakfast if we got the 20 up," Woods said later.

3

#### CHELTENHAM

1.15 MONICASMAN (nap) 1.45 Bowl Of Oats (nb) 2.20 Same Difference 2.55 Mine's An Ace 3.30 Multy 4.05 Storm Falcon 4.35 Gemini Mist GOING: Good to Firm.

Left-hand, galloping course with still fences. Uphill run-in of

24uyd.

Electrocorne is 1m north of town off A435. Bus link from Chel-tenham raflway station (served by Bristol, Birningham and Lordon, Paddington) which is 2m away. ADMISSION: Clab & Tattersalls \$1.2 (uniors, 16-24 years, \$81; Foster's Enclosure \$5. CAR PARE: Free. SIS" All races

WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: None.
LONG-DESTANCE EUNNERS: Royal Expression (3.30) has been cant 223 miles by Mrs M Reveley from Linguise, Cleveland; Gesahri Miss (4.36) has been sent 158 miles by Mrs Norya Daufield from Ax-1.15 ADLESTROP NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS D) £3,500 added 2m 110yds

OP- WOODE WONDER (RE) (187) M Bradslock 511.2 \_P Rolley 542- EQUIDANTY (221) A Janua 8 10 11 \_\_\_\_\_\_ D Bridgentor 05-0PS VENON OF LIGHT (18) H Oliver 5 10 11 \_\_\_\_\_\_ lacqui Oliver

= 12 dockered = BETTING: 5-2 Monicesson, 3-1 Ledy Peta, 4-1 Singaby, 11-2 Diviner, 8-1 Stor Of Donki, 10-1 Equinkolly, 12-1 Whispering Court, 20-1 others. 1.45 VFB HOLDAYS AMATEURS HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E) £5,000 added 3m 1f

110vds CSPFF-P MAN OF MYSTERY (6) (D) N Tweath-Danes 811 11. 343439 JOHN ROGER (12) H Manner 8 10 0 Mr A Clamber-Iones (7)
PPFUPP. AMSTEY GADADOUT (217) D Basset 8 10 0 July A Holdoworth (7)

- 9 declared -All Inform Weight: 10st. True hardscap wighter it C's Danoer & Green Wask Sst.

11th. Pascor's Way Sel Sib. Foughers Set Sib. Fight Zied Set Sib. John Roger
Set Sib. Ansity Gardsbout Set 4b.

SETTING: 7-4 KC Sc Dancer, 3-1 Hann Of Mystery, 7-2 Sould Of Outs, 9-2

Green Weiß, 10-1 Pascor's Way, 12-1 Pastor's Way, 12-1 Pastor's Way, 12-1 Covernors Sibre, 12-1 Covernors Sibr

2.20 TIM EMANUEL HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS B) £5,000 added 2m 7f 110yds 

02U-1U2 TUG OF PEACE (18) (BF) G Baiding 8 11 11 ...... B Feation (5) 

7 062001. SAME DIFFERINCE (19) (C) A Javes 7 10 3........P Morris (7)

- 7 declared SEJTHYE: 7-2 Sticky Mosey, 9-2 Sense Difference, Tag Of Pence, 5-1 Oresohill have Away, 11-2 Begant Rug, 7-1 Smith Teo, 12-1 Holy Jos.

2.55 LLOYDS BOWMAKER HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS C) £7,000 added 2m 5f 

- 4 declared -Minimum weight, 10st. True handisco veights. Kurus & Aline's An Aco (kst 13th. BETTING: 5-4 Dure, 6-4 Wise Approach, 9-2 Mine's An Aco, 8-1 Iconus.

3.30 NEVILLE RUSSELL NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS D) £3,500 added 3YO 2m 110yds - p encuren -BETTENG: 6-4 Matty, 13-6 Royal Expression, 6-1 Hentisyeris Rock, 7-1 Risk A Million, 10-1 Noble Ballerina.

4.05 LYDNEY NOVICE CHASE (CLASS D) £6,000 added 2m 110yds

413F-13 BERTONE (RE) (11) (BF) K Bolley 8 11 12 \_\_\_\_ R Dannoody
04:12-1 NORSE RAIDER (13) (D) M Pgo 5 11.8 \_\_\_\_\_ D Bridgember
111-131 STORM FALCON (USA) (27) (20) 8 Mellor 5 11 8 \_\_\_\_\_ - 4 decimed -BETTING: 15-8 Storm Falcon, 5-2 Bertane, 3-1 Norse Ruider, 9-2 Sonie

4.35 BDNUSPRINT NATIONAL HUNT FLAT (CLASS H) £2,000 added 2m 11.0yds

#### targets **Bruno** with writ

Boxing

KEN JONES

In professional boxing the truth means different things to different people, which is why a High Court writ on behalf nf Lennox Lewis was issued yesterday against Frank Bruno and the World Boxing Council.

The truth as Lewis sees it is that, having overcome Lionel Butler in a final eliminator earlier this year, he hotds priority over Mike Tyson as official challenger for the WBC heavyweight title Brunn took re-

cently from Oliver McCall, In Bruno's mind, the truth is that he would earn a great deal more from defending against Tyson, who was automatically ranked above Lewis by the WBC after completing a three-

year prison sentence. As Tysoo is expected to meet Bruce Seldon for the World Boxing Association championship in March next year before challenging Bruno, the action instituted by Lewis and his associates comes as no surprise. Considering that Tyson's promoter, Don King, wields a great deal of influence with the WBC president, Jose Sulaiman, there was no nther route to follow.

A hig snag for Lewis is that his American promoters, the Duva nrganisation, Main Events and Sulaiman, are barely on speaking terms. Another is that the American cable network, Home Box Office, that has Lewis under contract is not excited by the idea of Bruno as his next opponent, even for the title. "When Lennox defended against Bruno it did not amount to a great deal over bere," Abraham said a few week ago after Lewis stopped Tommy Morrison in Atlantic City.

Unquestionably, HBO would prefer Lewis to go in with Riddick Bowe, who is facing Evander Holyfield next week in Las Vegas but, for the time being at kast, it does not figure on Lewis's ageoda. "Fli box anybody," he said yesterday. "I definitely want to fight Bowe at some stage, but I want Bruno first."

Drew Docherty has yet to decide whether to resume his boxing career after the fateful bout which led to the death of James Murray in Glasgow on 15 October, his manager, Tommy Gilmour, said yesterday.

#### **Pakistan** fly in to **furore**

The Australian Cricket Board has dismissed the inquiry findings which cleared the Pakistan batsman, Salim Malik, of bribery charges levelled by three Australian Test players, as Pakistan's cricketers arrived in Sydney yesterday for a six-week tour.

Graham Halbish, the ACB chief executive officer, criticised the report for suggesting Shane Warne, Tim May and Mark Waugh had invented their charges against Salim. "The Board stands behind its players and believes these statements are correct," he said in an nfficial statement.
In Islamabad, the chairman

of Pakistan's selection committee. Zafar Altaf, said the allegations that Salim nffered the Australian players A\$200,000 (£100,000) tn A\$400,000 tn in lose Test and one-day matches during Australia's tour of Pakistan last year should be laid to rest.

Pakistan's new captain, Wasim Akram, welcomed Salim's selection for the three-Test series and said the 17-man squad supported their former captain. Salim, who was selected after being cleared by the inquiry headed by a former Pakistan Supreme Court judge, was expected in arrive in Australia later in the week.

Roger Twose, the English-born Warwickshire batsman whn opted to play for New Zealand, is set to make his Test dehut today when the second match of the three-Test series against India gets under way.

> TODAY'S NUMBER

The value, in US cents, of a cheque that the boxing promoter Don King once refused to allow any of his employees in sign, according to a former accountant. Joseph Maffia is testifying against King, cur-rently on trial in New York for faking a contract in 1981.

#### A new stadium for a new century

The competition to build a new national stadium by the year 2000, backed by £100m of Lottery money. reaches a climax this week. As

Mike Rowbottom reports, the choice is far from simple

the Holiday Inn at 1, King's Cross Road will L take on a previously unknown significance tomorrow and Friday as representatives from five British cities make their final pitch there to be the site for the proposed national stadium.

Their anxious presentations will be made to a steering group of sporting administrators who are due to deliver their final verdict on Tuesday - and with it will prohably come more than £100m of National Lottery

The object sounds relatively simple. What is required, by the year 2000, is one 80,000-seat studium capable of hosting major sporting events.

Discussions have apparently been smooth and civilised, but there is no disguising the complex and potentially divisive nature of the steering group's

A central element in the whole process is The London Factor. The Sports Council stresses that this is not an Olympic hid, but a quest for a world-class British venue. That venue, however, must be capable of hosting events such as the Olympics.

Birmingham and Manchester have discovered in the last decade just how elusive those five rings can be, mounting three unsuccessful bids between them. The message which came down from International Olympic Committee circles on each occasion was that if Britain wanted the Games they would have to be in London.

The attitude was graphically illustrated two years ago when Sheffield was due to host the World Cup in athletics. The president of the International Amateur Athletic Federation, Primo Nebiolo, gave it to be understood that he had somewhere more metropolitan in mind. The event was switched lo the capital.

sporting grandees for somewhere sented itself. "There is a lot of glamorous, even the preference of their wives for major shopping possibilities, is a potent factor. Infuriating as it is to those outside the capital, such perceptions have to be acknowledged.

It is a message which steering group member Peter Radford reiterated last month. The British Athletic Federation's executive chairman, normally the most cautious of men, spelt out the fact that senior LAAF members would favour London above all other venues to host government.

#### The five grounds in the race

#### THE DECISION MAKERS

WEMBLEY

Location: existing stadium. Seating: 80,000.

Other plusses

road and rell links being Minuses: Location.

London.

Trump card: History and

tructure in place.

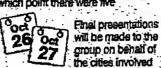
The national stadium steering group invited proposals in April against a set of agreed criteria: planning and location; transportation; ownership structure; management proposals; capital funding; financial viability. Three agreed key goals: one stadium; 80,000 capacity; accommodating

football, rugby and athletics and capable of hosting major events

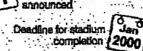
Members: Rodney Walker: chairman, Sports Council. Dersk Casey: chief executive, Sports Council. Sir John Quinton: chairman, Premier League. Rick Pany: chief executive, Premier League. Sir Bert Millichip: chairman, Football Association, Graham Kelly: chief executive, FA. Pat Smith: deputy chief executive, FA. Maurice Lindsay: chief executive, Rugby Footbell League. Gordon McKeag: president, Football League. David Dent: secretary, Football League. Professor Peter Radford: chief executive, British Athletic Federation

#### TIMETABLE

Closing date for entries was 14 July, at which point there were five



Vote on location of the stadium will be taken and. announced'





三、12.30mm,13.50mm,13.50mm,13.50mm。13.50mm,13.50mm,13.50mm,13.50mm,13.50mm,13.50mm

BRADFORD

Proposer: National Superdome Foundation Trust Location: Odsal Stadium Seating: 80,000.

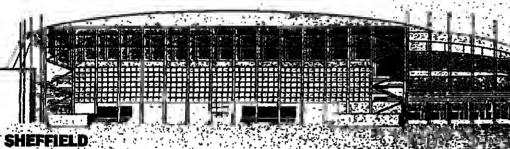
ran card: innovati stiding roof design would.

prive from Leeds/Bradford airport, digest spur off M62/M808. Full plenning permission. Only asking £40m from Lottery funds. reemational circles

Location: Eastlands. Seating: 80,000 (with two options at Cost £134m.

Trump card: About to be confirmed as hosts of the 2002 Commonwealth

ers after two falled Olympic bids. Arena and velodrome already place and stadium site cleared. Minuses: Perceived impact of two Chympic fellures, Manchester United and City redeveloping their grounds.



Proposer: Sheffield City Council via Sheffield City Trust.

Location: Dop Valley stadium. Seating: 50,000 (with possibility of increase to 80,000). imative bid proposed involving separate stadium for field events costing £28m, and upgrading Don Valley to 40,000 for athletics).

Trump card: Accessibility. 25,000 parking spaces within three kilomet Minusea: Two stadium variation poes outside steering group's criteria.

for which Britain will bid. It seems clear that London cannot be without a major sport-ing facility. And for all the talk of Docklands sites and out-oftown locations near the M25, no The preference of the world's alternative to Wembley has prespeculation in the media but not a lot from developers," a Sports Council spokesman said. "If there are any other bids out there, we haven't heard of

the 2002 World Championships,

Hilary Kirkham, of the Brent Regeneration Agency, estimates that any new bidder would have to spend £1.5 billion to match the infrastructure currently in place at Wembley - a sum which could be raised only by a direct grant from central

But the old Empire stadium, for all its unrivalled historical associations and mythical status, is not without problems. Parking snace may be ample, but getting to it through the urban sprawl is a taxing experience.

currently being widened at a swimming pool; but Wembley cost of £100m; and London maintains it is a thoroughly Transport is committed to rebuilding Wembley Park station at a cost of £32m if the site is chosen for the national stadium.

Despite these improvements, some critics believe that there simply is not enough room around Wembley to host a major, multi-sport event. There would be none of the compactness which Birmingham or Manchester were able to propose to the IOC. There are also doubts voiced

about Wembley's plan to raise and lower the patch hydraulically to enable those at the back of the stadium to see the athletics track, which will be revealed by removing the inner circle of seating. The exercise does bring to The North Circular Road is mind images of the Thunderbirds

> currently being used by oil rigs in the North Sea. The British Olympic Association has announced its intention to bid for the 2008 Olympics and, if Wembley gets the nod on Tuesday, it must surely be the projected Olympic host. Thus Britain will be committed to hidding for an Olympics before being able to

envisage how it would be

tested mechanism which is

The BOA has asked for the 31 October deadline to be deferred, but the Sports Council has kept to it - and there are no indications that the steering group will fail to choose one of the five bidding cities.

"We have been studying the bids in detail since 14 July," a Sports Council spokesman said. "So far they have met all the criteria. There are no major flaws. They are five abreast and coming towards us."

Manchester's charge is given impetus by the fact that they are due to have their hosting of the 2002 Commonwealth Games rubber-stamped on 3 November. have you got to have all your The Sports Council is "absolutely committed" to assisting them in providing a suitable stadium for that event.

Both Manchester

Birmingham dispute the importance of the London factor, pointing out that recent major sporting events have been held outside capital cities - the 1992 Olympics in Barcelona. successive world athletics championships in Stuttgart and

Gothenburg. The rest of Europe seems to be able to cope very adequately with having more than one major stadium," Howard Bernstein, the deputy chief executive of Manchester City. Council, said. "No one is saying that London doesn't deserve a major sports facility. But why

eggs m one basket?" Bradford, who plan to build the kind of ambitious, roofed creation of the kind inhabited by the Toronto Blue Jays or Ajax are going to have a national

in Amsterdam, also acknowledge the need for a big stadium in the south-east, but insist that a northern stadium is also required. They are only asking the National Lottery for £40m out of the required total of £200m.

John Garside, the the crossroads of the country," equidistant between Edinburgh

for Birmingham, who propose to build a stadium just the

tant director with Birmingham City Council, said. "If you

Wales unveil their

Location is also a key issue other side of the M42 from the

an additional 80,000-seater stadium-alongside to host foot-

without hope. National Exhibition Centre. We are very easy to get to from every part of the country," Alan Wenban Smith, an assis-

country.

ball and rugby matches. Whatever the group's decision, however, the rejected parties need not trudge away

stadium, there is a lot to be said

for having it in the middle of the

Sheffield also claim a central

geographical role - "situated in

the centre of the country" - and

have offered a possible late

variation on extending the Don

.Valley stadium which currently

We do not rule out a future for other projects which do not achieve the national stadium bid," the Sports Council spokesman said. "There is Lottery money for other things

#### Boardman decides to leaves pursuers behind

to defend the Olympic track title that lifted him from evelist to celebrity in 1992. After ending an injury-

wrecked season with an unexpected victory over Graeme Obree, the world pursuit champion, in Paris on Monday, he said that he would not contest Britain's only place in the 4,000 metres in Atlanta. "It's disappointing for me but

that is life, it would not be fair of me to challenge when we have someone capable of win-ning Olympic gold," Board-man said after beating Obree in a pursuit challenge ruined by the Scot breaking his special

"I did not particularly want to race against Graeme with his current form but my team boss wanted me to do the best I could. I don't like being cannon fodder but then I was very lucky. I was presented with an opportunity and grabbed h with a wrist. Gone were his plans for

Olympic gold is on Chris Board-man's 1996 racing agenda but a collebrity three years are and is now a celebrity three years ago and is now planning a new route to Olympic gold

> both hands when Graeme had to ride an unfamiliar bike." Now Boardman's aims are for

an even harder Olympic title, the road time trial. "Winning it will he against the best. It's going to be harder than the pursuit, particularly with riders such as Miguel Indurain and Abraham Olano about. "I was the world time trial

champion last year but Indurain is the best time triallist in the world. The Olympics are something special," Boardman said. But the Tour de France is everything."

He has provided a startling open to the last two Tours. In his 1993 debut he took the yellow jersey of race leader when he won the opening time trial in Lille, beating Indurain. This July he crashed on the third day, breaking his ankle and

more yellow jersey time, and also the chance to defend his two world titles. Boardman started his come-

back three months after the accident with a win in a time trial within pedalling distance of his Merseyside home, and ended his three-week return with another at the Bercy indoor track Next year is already mapped

out for Boardman, with an opening campaign that includes classics such as the Milan to San There are two major Belgian

races Boardman feels are in his range in that first phase: the Fleche Walloon and the Liège to Bastogne and back classic. After a five-week break from racing he starts his Tour build-up. "I have fewer races in my season than anyone else in my team but I have to come up with the results.



Boardman: fine comeback 'Since the accident I have missed success and being fit. Racing, I don't miss. It's hard and it hurts. Now I have a lot of work ahead of me this winter to be ready in time."

Boardman consoles himself with the thought that: "the Tour is not exactly the right preparation for the Olympic pursuit." That takes place five days after the Tour finishes - but he still has designs on a pursuit

"As far as furthering my career, pursuit racing doesn't mean much for business or as far as the rest of the world is concerned I like it, though, Boardman said. He intends to challenge Obree for the world pursuit title when the track championships are staged in

#### One thousand and counting for Edberg Tennis

Stefan Edberg became only the fourth player to clock up 1,000 top-class matches when he beat the Italian, Renzo Furlan, 6-3 6-1 to reach the second round of the Essen Open in Germany yesterday. The former Wimbledon champion joined Ivan Lendl, Jimmy Connors and John McEnroe as the only players to have reached the milestone.

Edberg said he would treasure the achievement for years to come. "It's a milestone. As you get older, these things get more important. It will mean a lot in 15 to 20 years from now." He has a long way to go to catch Lendl, who tops the list with 1,310 matches ahead of Connors (1,180) and McEnroe

(1,033). Edberg's 1,001st match is against Pete Sampras. Although the Swede has now slipped to 23rd in the rankings, he has no plans to retire yet. "Not many players get to the 1,000th match. I'm glad I won it. I want to keep going as long as I feel I am playing good tennis."

FA Carling Premierably
1 Aston Vita v Breton
2 Blackburn v Chessa .......

#### latest Quinnell model **Rugby Union**

STEVE BALE

Craig Quinnell will follow not only in father's footsteps but those of hrother and uncle as well when he makes his debut for Wales against Fiji at Cardiff Arms Park on 11 November. The 20-year-old Llanelli flanker, 6ft 6in and 1842st, is the latest to gain the benefit of the Welsh selectors' policy of extreme youth, his inclusion in the side named yesterday among

lost with bonour in South Africa in September. Craig's father Derek, now a selector, won 23 caps in the Seventies and brother Scott capped in 1993 when 21, played nine times before turning professional with Wigan a year ago

four changes from those who

when the teenaged Craig was a fifth-choice club second row. The boys are also nephews of Barry John, the all-time great Wales stand-off of Derek's earlier years, and there is yet another brother on the way

through. Gavin, aged 11, is al-ready 5ft 9in tall.

Craig is keen to establish his personal credentials rather than rely on reputations established by his father and elder brother, though it is a source of regret that Scott and Craig, despite the closeness of their ages, never played a match together after

the age of eight.
"We're not the same type of person or player and I want to think about what I can give the Welsh team when I'm there and not what they gave when they were there," he said yesterday. Quinnell for Andrew Gibbs

on the hlind side, the 21-yearold Andrew Moore - capped as a replacement in Johannesburg-for Greg Prosser at lock, Wayne Proctor for Simon Hill on the wing and Nigel Davies from outside the squad to replace Gareth Jones at centre are the changes. Ieuan Evans will beat John

Williams's 55-cap Welsh record when he appears against Fiji, mention of the illustrious JPR being a reminder of disquiet with levels. JPR, now a selector, made clear his derogatory view of Neil Jenkins' outside-half play at the weekend.

There is also contention over the omission of Gareth Llewel-lyn, particularly with two other challengers, Prosser and Paul Arnold, being injured. Liewellyn is widely believed to be paying the penalty for apsetting Alex Evans, the then coach, off the field during the World Cup, something that is officially de-

SOMETHING THAT IS OTHERWAY GO-nied.

WALES (v Fill, Cardiell, 11 Movember): J Thomas; I Evens (Llenelli), G Thomas (Brid-gard), H Davies, W Proctor (Lisrell): N Jeak-has (Portypidd), A Moore (Cardiel): C Loader (Swanser), J Househreys (Cardiel, capt), J Davies (Westh), A Moore (Swanser), Il Jones (Cardiel), G Qeitmed (Llenell), H Taylor, M Beanett (Cardiel). Replacements: S Hill (Cardiel), A Williams (Swanser), R Howley (Bridgerd), L Masthe (Cardiel), G Jeoldes (Swanser) & Williams (Masth).

Harlequins will stage three The London Broncos will play at The Stoop, starting on 1 No-vember against St Helens. The other fixtures are against Halifax on 15 November and Warrington four days later.

**Football** The second

COCA-CUP THRO ROLIND
Actor Villa & Stockpert (7.45)
Coventry v Totacham (7.45)
Derby v Leeds Util (7.45)
Derby v Leeds Util (7.45)
Prepagol & Marchester City (7.45)
Repagol & Marchester City (7.45) inerpool a Materiana Milhell v Sheffeld Wednesday Manufets v Bradford City (7.45) Quees's Park Rangers v York (7.45)
Southerpton v West Hers.
Southerpton v West Hers.
Weives v Chariton (7.45) SCOTTISH COCA-COLA CUP SEMI-FINAL

TODAY'S FIXTURES SEAZER HOMES LEAGUE Premier Divis Newport AFC v Dorchester Town: Saicto Goucester Cey, Midland Division: Salutul

FEDERATION BREWERY NORTHERN LEAGUE CUP Second round; Brandon v Epileton; Con-set v Delington CS; Durham Chy v Houlen; Gus-bonough v Muzzon; Peterlee v Chester le-Street; Shotton Compages a Norton; Witechiam v GREAT MILLS LEAGUE Premier Division: Bno

POT V COMMITTED COUNTIES LEAGUE CLP Second round: Bourne v Coungrym, INTERLINK, EXPRESS MEDIAND ALLIANCE LEAGUE CUP Second round: Stratond v Pér-JEWSON EASTERN LEAGUE Premier Division Stowmorket v Suggery Town.
NORTH WEST COUNTRES LEAGUE First DiNORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEASUE Pre-ident's Cap second rotate. Administ v Matt-by, Bladworth v Hochmart, Brigg v Wantertun; Immungham v Hell Road Rangers. PRESS AND JOURNAL HIGHLAND LEAGUE: Deveramele v Eign Cay; heath v Cove Rangers; Lossemouth v Bucine Tristle; Rothes v Fraser-

PONTINS LEAGUE First Divisions Naturalism Forest v Manchester Lito (7.0); West Bromach v Shetheld Lito (7.0). Second Divisions Bromach ley v Garnelly (7.0); Burtley v Sanderhand (7.45); Hutkendeld v Leacester (7.0); Pont Valle v Etyci-god (7.0). Taind Divisions Buy v Potnides (7.0); Carline v Screttmann (7.0); Charles v Davison. AVON INSURANCE COM

berech v Luton fat Bury Towni; Visitori v Chelee (2.0), Second Division Leegue Capt Bath Cay v Boumernooth (at Reyestern Town); Berning-harn Cay v Chellenham (at Suton Coldiest Town); Swansea v Cartell (2.0),

Rugby Union

Manchester next August.

TOUR MATCHES: Neath's Fit (2,301; Wardens v Thailand XV (2,30) for Blackheeth RFC).

Endeleigh League First Div 9 Grmby V Smite 10 Lecester v Crystal Palace SNOOKER: Shoda Grand Pro (Sond

WEEKEND FIXTURES Second Division
17 Badapad v Odord Ust
18 Bournemouth v Carisis stol City v Walsell

> Third Division 28 Cardit v Colchester .... 30 Desingson v Plymouth

32 Doncester v Preston 32 Earter v Lincoln

38 Rochdale v Cambridge Utd

Bell's Scottish League 41 Celtic v Aberdeen . 42 Fallark v Hearts. 43 Hibernan v Kilmamock 44 Partick v Motherwill

First Division

AND POOLS FORECAST Second Division Third Division

> Also playing (not on coupons): Livingston v Arthoeth, Ross County v East String. re: Blackburn v Chelses, Milwall v Wes Angon v Phynouth, Dundes Lies v Dun

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COCA-COLA CUP:

Arsenal wetblat on upsta

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2016

## COCA-COLA CUP: Barnsley out-gunned by the professionals while last season's finalists fail to advance at home

Arsenal put wet blanket on upstarts

**GUY HODGSON** 

Arsenal

MANCHESTER

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Arsenal may be shedding the flinty image of George Gra-ham's latter days, but it does not mean they cannot be hardfaced when they want to be. Last night they did a thoroughly professional joh on First Division Barnsley to remove them from the Coca-Cola Cup.

Wiping away the home team's pretty fontball like so much unnecessary froth, they with two goals late in the first half by Steve Bould and Dennis Bergkamp. On a damp night the final wet hlanket was thrown on an upset by Martin Keown's beader 15 minutes from time.

There is a theory among people who rarely frequeot Oakwell that Barnsley are unable to hold a fontball match without a storm breaking out above them. Last night duly conformed to that prejudice, the wind and rain lashing down in a manner worthy of Wuthering

In short it was foul and equally brief was the Arsenal pitch inspection. The players took to the field bedecked in the club blazers and ties, and stayed all of 30 seconds before retreating hastily to the dressing-room, oo doubt deciding to play with the elements first if they could work out which way that was.

Under the circumstances good football was unlikely and in the first 30 minutes Arsenal adhered to that faithfully. Barely two passes were strung together by the Premiership team and they must have been staggered to reach the interval two

For 37 minotes the visiting threat had amounted to ooe through ball by Dennis Bergkamp that was picked off lan Wright's toes by Barnsley's England Under-21 goalkeeper,

reports from Hampden Park

Alex Ferguson, wheo he was

tained that if the Dons were to

win honours they had to trav-

or Celtic - or both. At Hamp-den last night Billy Dodds scored-twice for Aberdeen to

secure for them a Coca-Cola

Cap final place, and with their

opponents coming from tonight's all-First Division tie

giween Airdrie and Dundee

chances are Aberdeen will

win their first trophy in five

Rangers defence was in a sham-

bolic shape, and although Oleg Salenko pulled a goal back for

nager of Aberdeen, main-

el to Glasgow and beat Rangers the far post.

Rangers

Aberdeen

are past masters at making the most of morsels and in the closing minutes of the first half they struck like vipers.

The first goal came from a free-kick 25 yards out that was passed short from Glenn Helder to Bergkamp, who hit the ball low towards the far cor-oer. Watson saved superbly to his left but the ball popped from his grasp and Bould tapped in

After 41 minutes it was 2-0 and again Bergkamp's shooting proved decisive. Steve Davis, the Barnsley centre-back, allowed the ball to bounce off him and won this third-round match the Dutch striker pounced. Seemg no colleague in a more promising position, he swing his left foot and beat Watson from 20 yards.

It was cruel for Barnsley who had begun the match playing like the sun was shining and the air was still. Their short passing was a joy and if they had shown the same accuracy oearer the goal they could have gone in at half-time with parity at least. David Seaman saved at his oear post from Andy Liddell after six minutes and his posts were shaved by a header from Andy Paytoo eight minutes later.

Arsenal have the most parsimonious defence in the Premiership, having cooceded only five goals. Although attacking their back four had been like banging your head oo a rock. Barnsley tried, firing in long range shots from Paytoo and Oweo Archdeacon in the 55th and 56th minutes that tested Seaman's agility.

Despite this, the feeling was growing that Barnsley's defiance was an act of futility, and that impression was endorsed when after 76 minutes Andy Liddell blazed a penalty over the bar.

Barmeley (5-3-2); Watson; Earlen, Davis (Rammel, 66), Bishon, Moses, Archdecon; Bullock, Sheston, Redigent; Payton, Liddel, Sabetilates not used; Rammel, Jackson, Butler (gl). mai (4-4-2): Seeman; Diens, Adamis, Bould, erburn; Merson, Keben, Jansen (Hughes, Heider; Benglomp, Wright (Hartson, 81). Mittata not esseti: Bertram (gK),

a memorable victory.
Rangers, without Richard

Gough, who had joined an

ever-growing injury list, served ootice of intent within seconds

of the start, with Gordon Durie

kicking off down the left before crossing for Ally McCoist, whose low shot snaked wide of

That confident booster be-

hind them, Rangers set about

dominating the opening period

with Paul Gascoigne, in partic-

ular, displaying his skills in an

ed that he was playing the best football of his career and while

the trademark runs with the ball

perched on his toe were evident,

include others in the game with

short accurate passes.

Earlier in the day he had stat-

impressive start.

Dodds' two goals came in the so too was a willingness to scrap scood half at a time when the in the middle of the field and to



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Sheer concentration: Alan Shearer holds off David Holdsworth, of Watford, during Blackburn's 2-1 victory at Vicarage Road Photograph: Peter Jay

#### Little in way of relief for Bolton

DERICK ALLSOP

**Bolton Wanderers** Leicester City

A season is a long time in football and Boltoo Wanderers, Coca-Cola Cup finalists last spring, are confrooting the prospect of an autumn exit this time to compound their ansieties in the league after last night's goalless draw.

Bolton have long relished the role of underdog in Cup competition and it seemed just like old times as they snapped at the heels of oormally more assured opponents. They have, after all, been a Premiership

exorcise the ghosts of Turin fol-

Aberdeen, however, gradu-

ally eased their way into a game which was well short of the stan-

dard these two clubs have pro-

duced in cup ties in the past.

half in more purposeful mood,

Aberdeen were rewarded for

their change in attitude six min-

off a defender, the Aberdeen

Glass curled a shot oarrowly

Having started the secood

in peril of an immediate return to the First Division.

Current form would suggest they would, on the way, pass Leicester, who top the Endsleigh League and arrived at Burnden Park undefeated away from home.

That record came under instant threat from a Boltoo side released from the intimidating environment of the top people's league. They assaulted Leicester's defence in the manner that carried them to Wembley last season and denied Leicester the time to settle into their pre-

ferred rhythm. Twice in the early minutes Richard Socekes appeared in shooting positions, testing shot and theo pushing the hall wide. Mark Pattersoo made good use of a slippery surface, oeatly side-stepping his would-be marker and shooting just too

Mixu Paatelainen evidently had ton much time to consider his options from Alan Thompsoo's nod-on and ultimately cootrived to miss the target by some distance. Thompson, too, wasted an opportunity, failing to complete the oecessary spin and delivery.

Garry Parker attempted to coax Leicester off the back foot hut it was the more muscular cootributioo of Iwau Roberts which represented the most serious danger to Bolton defied by Stephen McAnespie's excellent intervention and then he struck the font of a post with a header.

Bolton regenerated their momeotum after the break and again Soeekes pushed himself to the front of the firing squad. Alas for the home team, his direction was still awry.

Bolton were nearly caught on the hreak again hut David Lowe's miscue spared them acute embarrassment. Lowe turned provider for the advancing Mick Whitiow, who forced a lunging save from Bra-

Parker's influence opened more avenues for Leicester and the slightest deflection was

wheo it seemed his raking shot was goalbound.

Alan Stuhbs relieved the pressure, striding forward from his post in front of the back four, to short powerfully from 30 yards but straight at Kevin Poole.

David Lee, the substitute, hrought with him fresh hope, seeing a lobbed shot drift just wide and theo creating the confusion from which Socekes' shot was turned over.

Bolton Wanderers (4-1-3-2): Branagar; McAnesple, Fairclough, Bergsson, Philips; Studiss; Sneekas, Patterson (Lea, 63), Thomp-son; McGinley, Pastelphen (De Freitas, 86). Substitute not used: Devison (gk). Lolouster City (5-3-1-1): Poole; Grayson, Carey, Rolling, Hill, Whitlow; Taylor, Parker, Blake; Lowe; Roberts, Substitutes not used: Lawrence, Kalso (sld. Robins.

#### Pressure on Final reckoning rests on Duffy's decision

pick himself.

Dundee are attempting to reach their first final since meeting oeighbours Duodee United in the same competition 15 years ago and Duffy, who played in Saturday's 1-1 draw with Clydebank, said: "I am not sure how I would handle two games in the space of a few days, but at the same time I know there is going to be a lot of pressure out there - and I know I could handle that."

Duffy proved his nerve by stepping forward to score in the peoalty shoot-out as Dundee overcame Hearts after their 4-4 quarter-final draw.

Football

place in the side, Duffy faces an anxious wait for weekend casualties Morteo Wieghorst and Neil Duffy, the manager's oephew, who both picked up knocks against Clydebank. Homeless Airdrie, curreotly

ground-sharing with Clyde in Cumhernauld, go into their fifth semi-final in five years with their English striker Steve Cooper admitting Scotland's oomads may have cured his itchy feet. The 31-year-old has beeo with a string of clubs in a chequered career but admits 12 months with the Dismoods have left him believing he might for once stay put. "I feel really settled here and so are the family," said Cooper, signed from York City a year ago. Airdrie have a full squad to

choose from, with Kenny Black (calf) and Paul Jack (thigh strain) the only slight doubts.

#### Cooks prove best of the rest

Rugby League DAVE HADFIELD

reports from Gigg Lane, Bury Ireland Cook Islands

The tiny Cook Islands became the best of the rest in the world of rugby league, overcoming brave Irish resistance to win the Halifax Emerging Nations World Cup last night.

Although the South Pacific

side were always the more mobile and fluent, it was only in the last seven minutes that two tries guaranteed them victory. Despite a torrential down-

pour that threateoed to turn them into submerging nations, the two finalists showed why they had reached this stage of a gratifyingly successful competition by moving the ball am-bitiously from the start.

It was the Irish who made the breakthrough, however, the Islanders' allowing Martio Crompton's kick to bounce and evectually fall for the rightwinger, Phelim Comerford.

The Cooks, with their scrumhalf, Ali Davys, setting up play cleverly, got into any oumber of promising positions, but the combination of the difficult handling conditions and some stern Irish defence kept them out.

Io the 24th mioute, the Cooks made their pressure tell, Davys' pass sending Alex Kermode over. The Islanders took the lead with a disputed try 10 minutes later, Craig Boweo chipping over the defence and kicking ahead again for Soony Shepherd to score from an apparently offside position. The damage was compounded by Meti Noovau's first goal.

After looking on the point of cracking again in the early stage of the second half, Ireland clawed their way back into the game, Good close support play took them into the Cooks' 22 and a high tackle by Jasoo Temu on Richard Smyth yielded a penalty safely landed by Comerford.

It was Ireland's turn to press now, but the Cooks turned defence into attack, breaking out of their own half for their blood-bin substitute, Tangi Tangi Metua, to be tackled without the ball and for Noovao to re-

With the game understandably becoming messier, Ireland wasted their best chance when Phil Owens knocked on at another scrum oear the line. The Cook Islands immediately made them pay, Bowen kicking through and winning the race to get the fin-gertip on the ball despite slipping and scrabbling the last few yards on hands and knees.

The Irish ocver bowed the knee, but in the last minute James Cuthers forced his way over and the Polynesian drums had the last word over the Irish pipes in the world music fusion oo the touchline in front of the 4,147 crowd.

4,147 Crowd.
COOK BLANDS: Toe Nigstenger-Matzwera;
Shophord Nigstangie-Matzwera; Patini
(Lupae-Maraconga), Tiesen (Lupae-Matzwera;
Danys (Brisbane); Hauter (Nigstangie-Matzwera;
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Hauter Tiel (Lupae-Matzwera;
Hauter (Lupae-Matz

#### Premier award goes to youth gold medallist

Sally Cuth a 17-year-old tingtry for Stansted in Stansted in History with Nautical awards and the first of th

round-the world yachtswoman.
The Sanabatty award went to Andy Cassell, of Cowes, and crew Tony Downs, of London, and Terry Willet, of Sheffield, for their gold medal perfor-mance in the World Disabled Sailing Championships. Cassell is expected to be named as skipper of the crew to represent Britain at the Paralympics in

Atlanta next year. Henri Strzelecki, who founded in Manchester the Henri Lloyd sports clothing company, was given a lifetime achievement award by the former King Constantine of Greece. An environmental award sponsored by Perkins Engines was given to the Surfers Against Sewage campaign.

#### Sheffleld outclassed again

Rangers doubled up by Dodds

only 10 points in the European Clubs' Championship, writes Duncan Hooper. It is a measure of Sheffield's struggles in recent weeks that the Belgian champions, Sunair Ostend, found it far easier to win 71-58 at Ponds Forge last night in the first leg of the third qualifying round of the European Cup.

Only Roger Huggins seemed to have shaken off the hangover following Sheffield's drubbings

#### at last weekend's McDonald's

Three weeks ago the European champions, Real Madrid, could beat Sheffield Sharks by

second place on the second day of the Catalonia Rally.

- intil he crashed on the 16th special stage, and McRae can now pip him for the ultimate prize at the RAC Rally, the final race of the series, oext month. In recent years, McRae and his co-driver, Derek Ringer,

Colin McRae is on course to be-

The Scot's main rival for the title, Juha Kankkunen, held a convincing lead in the race - having won eight of the first 15 stages

Champiooship. Osteod are hardly in the class of Real Madrid or Maccabi Tel Aviv. Sheffield's cooquerors at the London Arena, but they are still full-time professionals.

Huggins scored 19 first half

points as Sheffield trailed 38-28 at the interval after being hit by a 14-4 run in the last three minutes of the half. However, Huggins scored only two free throws in the second period as Ray Mitchell, Daniel Goethals and Ronny Bayer calmly built a commanding lead for next week's second leg.

#### McRae has title in his sights

#### have made the RAC Rally their

"It's a superb opportunity for come Britain's first world rally me," said McRae, who is eight champion after climbing to seconds behind the race leader, Carlos Sainz. If the positions remain un-

changed today, McRae and his Sobaru team-mate Sainz will lead the World Championship on 70 points.

Kankkunen, who had exteoded his lead in the rally to almost a minute before crashing, has 62. The reigning champion, Didier Auriol, is oow in

third place, 44 secoods behind

 $t_{\rm A}$ 

#### maining Aberdeen hung on for oents in their efforts to further a memorable victory. oents in their efforts to further exorcise the glosts of Turin fol-Watt, displayed his oerves when lowing Saturday's 4-1 victory he flapped at a corner in the over Hearts. he flapped at a corner in the oldst minute which, thankfully for him, was cleared by the de-Aberdeen scored their sec-

ond goal eight minutes later, again through Dodds. A cross from Glass from the left was inch perfect for the diminotive striker, who had eluded his marker and scored with a pow-

erful downward header.
Rangers gave themselves a chink of light with five minutes otes after the re-start wheo Dodds put them ahead. The goal owed much to a scintillating run by Eoin Jess who re-leased Dodds inside the remaining when Salenko shot powerfully past the goalkeeper Rangers' penalty area and, wheo his first effort rebounded and his oearside post from 18

Rangers (3-4-3): Goram; Moore (Durrant, 60), Brown, Petric; Cleband (Mikhallehanko, 80), Molaren, Gascoigne, Wilght; McCost, Salenko, Durlo. Subathacta and saled: Murray. striker retained his composure to stride on to the loose ball and Durie, Sensemuns not cases murray.
Ablendeen (4.4-42): Wait; Szant, Inglis, Smith,
Mckimmie; Miller (Hatherston, 84), Bernard,
Jess, Glase; Booth, Doddis, Substitutes noy
issed: Shearner, Snelders (gk).
Referee: H Delias (Motherwell). shoot low past Andy Goram. Three minutes later Stepheo Rangers appeared to be a over the bar but as Rangers

FOOTBALL RESULTS

Reading (0) \_\_\_\_\_\_0 Bury (2) \_\_\_\_\_ 6,500 Stant 5, Rigby 15 Match abandoned after 28 minutes

Auto Windscreens Shield

Rochdole (2) 5 Derlington (1) 2
Whitehell 7 Olsson 2
Gregen og 33 Appleby 82
Mouden 55, 72, 74 1,055

Northern first round

Scottish Coca-Cola Cup

26,131 let Hampden Park, Glasgow)

SOO
FA. CUP Fourth, qualifying round replays: Colsyn Bay 3 (Connelly 15, 43, Roberts 44) Stalybriggs 0; Rughdys and Diemonsk 3 (Weldins 43, 
Colling 47, Wilson 67) Purilest 1 (Dornous 45); Wisbrigg 2 (Carles 48, Shething pen 67) Fettoring 2 (Soots 52, Alboid 55) Stores at 50 mile; 
Bashley 2 (Louel 74, Sales 85) Newport low 3 
(Fourch 5, Gee 86, Ruffle 90); Marbor 3 (Carles 19, McConell 64, 70); Grammend and Northbest 3 (Gibts 67, Lamb 62, Bleeden 90)
1935 1 Facture Presented Publisher Heichin 0 St. Al-

3 (utions of J. Limit o 22, tremes of the history o

PONTRIS LEAGUE Second Division; Man-chaster City O Manafelt 0.

Chester City O Manufield O.
AVON INSURANCE COMMUNICATION First Distance Bristol City O Southernoton 1; Portamourth
1. Swinden 1; Queen's Park Ranges 2: Michell
1 of Harmow Brought; West Hart Inspens 1. Second Distains Langue Cap: Pyrnouth Argive
6 Torquey Urd 2.
DUTCH LEAGUE: Unselft 1 (Greenoogs: 1) PSV
500fbren 4 (Velotx 41, Nie 55, Jonk 69, Cocu
75).

#### League to sign TV deal

A £118.5m five-year television deal was in the balance last night after the Football League said it could not meet the deadline for acceptance laid down by the Football Association.

The League presideot, Gordon McKeag, had asked for more time to consider the record offer which would be worth £18.5m next season - an increase from the original £17m - and £25m a year for the following four years. Instead he was told by Lancaster Gate that he must give an answer by 4pm tomorrow. This poses a problem for the League's board of directors, who are also considering a TV deal with the Premier League.

First Divisioo club chairmen are oot scheduled to gather until a fortnight tomorrow at Leicester, and McKeag would like to delay a reply on the FA deal until after that meeting. SPORTING DIGEST

American football NFL: New England 27 Buffalo 14.

Badminton

Anders Nielsen, the English national champion, will pay his own way to my to quelify for next year's Olympics after having his ben, issued on Sunday, confirmed by the Badminton Association of England yesterday. Nielsen will receive no financial support from the association until after the end of January because he withdrew from the British Garid Slam tournament in Perth in September without a medical certificate.

Booking

The 23-year-old Glaswegian. Steve McLevy, stopped his opponent, Alarn Peacock, in the sixth round at Glasgow's St Andrew's Sporting Club to collect the vecant Scottish Lightwelterweight title on Monday night. It was McLew's seventh win in eight outings in the paid ranks and brought him his first belt since his amateur days. It was the first professional show in the city since the trage death of James Murray, the British bantam-

of James Murray, the British barmann-weight title challenger, after his fight with Drew Docherty 1.1 days ago. PROFESSIONAL PROMOTION (St Andrew's

Sporting Chib, Olsegow) 10-rd Sgist-weiter valgist (for Scottlan title): S Nacley (Clasgow) at A Peacock (Cumbervauld) the Sth.

Basketball

Cricket

#### The Dundee player-manager, Jim Duffy, faces a dilemma over As well as deciding on his own

his own position for the Coca-Cola Cup semi-final with Airdrie at McDiarmid Park tonight. The 36-year-old, who has recovered from a serious knee injury, is to decide this morning whether to

with the post alongside the former Sur-rey stalwert, intikheb Alam, and another Australian, Dave Glibert.

Queen's Park Rangers have signed Lee Sharp, an 18-year-old goalkeeper from non-league Lincoln United, on a two-year deal.

non-league Lincoln United, on a twoyear deal.

Sky Sports are to screen live coverage
of the FA Cup first-round ties between
York City and Notts County on Sunday,
12 November (Nick-off 4pm) and
Wycombe Wanderers v Gillingham on
Monday 13 November (Spm).

MonDon's Late Resultis: Gai Vandall Confursions Stevenige 4 Welling 1, FA United Trojuly first qualifying round second replays Blace
2 Surgon Colmised 1 (Blace a Notice to Lincester (Jat) Dukach Herries 1, Committed 2 Abstracts
at home to Weymouth), Beacer Homea League
Paramier Detailore: Chemistic Or Consety O:
Wordester 4 Morthy 2, Ich League Second DiVisioner Colydon 2 Stackined 1, Third Division: Ing
5 Leves 1, Unbond League Chemister (Ing
6 League First Divisions Second Divisions I Blackburn 1; Wolves 1 Bolton O. Second Divisions I Blackburn 1; Wolves 1 Bolton O. Second Divisions Hall
O Bradford Criy 2; Precton O Auton Wile 5. Third
Divisions Lincoln 3 Societor 2, Arona Insurrance
Consbibordion First Divisions Tottorhum 2 Winbladen 1. Portagismes League Sporting Lebon
2 Nation O. Leading positionses 1 Portin (Pa
Publica) 1. Leading positionses 1. Porta (Pa
Publica) 1. Lead

Jose Maria Olazabal faces at least sx more months of treatment to the foot problem that has plagued him all year and which keeps him out of this week's Volvo Masters in Spain. Olazabal, who withdrew from Europe's Ryder Cup side and the Spanish Afried Durhall Cup team, has now set his sights on returning at the Bahalyo Masters in Japan next month.

Cricket
Grahame Cinton, the Surrey coach, yesterday parted company with the county by mutual consent. In 1992, his first sesson in charge, he mastermanded their double of the Rapid Crickettine Second XI Championship and Bain Clarison Trophy. But two subsequent seasons of unfulfilled promise under Clinton and dissatisaction at the way the club is being run left members angry and frustrated. Terry Alderman, the former Australian pace bowler, is being linked James Duthie, the 1984 Olympic Bronze medallist and currently player-coach of Surbiton, has been appoint-ed team coach with David Whitaker as chief coach for Great Britain's build-up to the Olympic qualifier in Barcelona in January, Jon Copp, coach to Reading, has been named assistant.

ICO hockey NML: Montreel 6 Los Angeles 3; Colorado 3 Anchem 2.

#### Motorcycling

British motorcycling has announced its biggest ever promotional package, involving a new-look, musti-million-pound televised championship. The new competition, to be screened by BBC 1V's Grandstand programme, will comprise 20 rounds over 10 meetings. The overall winner will be classified as Britain's No 1 motorcyclist.

The Italian rider, Dorlano Romboni, has signed a two-year contract to ride for Apri-ia in the 500cc Grand Prix World Championship. At the end of next season both parties will then decide whether he should remain in the top category or return to the 250cc championship.

CHIALDRIA RALLY (Llovet de Mary Second day of throe-day event: 1 C Senz (Sp) Subera impress 3rv 45mm Söset: 2 C McRes (BB) Subera impress 3rv 45mm Söset: 3 D Aunol (Fr) Toyosa Calca +52; 4 P Listo (B) Subera impress +1250; 5 T Mainen (Fr) Missubert lancer +220; 8 F Delecur 5r) Foot Escor 222; 7 A April (B) Missubert Lancer +223; 9 G Toles (But 1 Toyosa Calca 4:50; 6 O Gomes (Sp) Renault (Do 937; 10 A Navara (E) Toyosa Celica +1152.

Sheffield Eagles yesterday signed Paul Dixon, the former Great Britain Test forward, from the Bradford Bulls for £20,000 in a bwo-and-a-half year deal. HALFAX EMERGINE NATIONS WOTUD CUP Finals Cook lettends (10) 22, Ireland (4) 8. Gook lettends: Tries Bowen, Curious, Hermode, Singhest, Gooks Noose 3, Irelands Tries Commonfort; Books C

#### **Rugby Union**

Nuggoy Union

Diccon Edwards, the Leicester centre, has joined Newport in a quest to further his international career. The 22-year-old, who has played one game for Wales A against France A earlier this year, has been told that, if he wants to progess to senior level, he needs to play Welsh club highy.

QUE MATCHEE Magnag 9 Konig Hill C. Quidd Inv 9 Wests 9. Generated Traceger v Cross Keye; Ebbw Vale v Moutplan Ash.

#### SKODA GRAND PRIX (Sunderland) Third round: F O'Brien (ut) bt J Wousen (Theil 5-3.

Squassin Princip Under 14 AND UNDER 12 CHAMPHORSHIPS 1 Micheyn Sardam Chyksop Under 14 annu-finalis: P Barber (Essen) bi 1 Mikhrop (Morishine) 9.1 9.0 8.2; M Grahm (Durham and Cleschard) bi R Danne (Mail 8-10 6-9 8-7 9-6 9-4. Finals Enter bi Grahm 9-0 8-10 10-9 9.3; limiter 12 semi-finalis: A Fathers (Yorkerher) is 1 Dold (Middlesco 9-8 9-6 9-7; P Campbell (Scot) bi 1 Haycocts (Morcesterinie) 8-1 9-6 7-9, 9-3; Finals Pattiess for Campbell 10-8, 9-0, 9-5; Girls Under-14 semi-finalis; J Duricall (Yorkshire) bi 1 Letturi (Scot) 9-1 8-5 9-3; A Heisel (Lancashire) bi 2 Ricksby (Yorkshire) 9-2 9-4 9-4; Finals Cundif Intels 9-2 3-9 10-8 8-4; Under 12 semi-finalis: A Waters (Middlescot) bit K Stephens Distributionshire) 9-9 9-9-5; Cunjigween Plampshire bit L Lengthom (Lancashire) 9-1 9-5.

Greg Rusedski starts as cleer favourite for the men's prize in the Guardian Direct national title in Telford next week. At No 43, he is 1,202 places above his first opponent, 19-year-old Colls Bennett of Ross-on-Wye, in the world rankings. Rusedski is scheduled for a semi-final against Mark Perchey, who best him in the Stelle Artos tournament. Jeremy Bates, chesing 8 seventh risbonal title and the fourth in succession, will start against Nick Weel of Hampshire and title and the fourth in succession, will start against Nick Weel of Hampshire and is seeded to meet Tim Herman in the semi-finals. Brighton's Clare Wood, who regained the British No 1 ranking this year, will begin her quest for a third title against Banbury's Claire Taylor, while Lizzle Jelfs, the second seed, starts against Jane Wood of Enfield.

NET'S ATP CHALLENGER (Second, 5 Kort Singles first round Leolecturi): Y Herman (GB) bt 1 Seric (Creat 6-4 6-2.

200584 O'FEN (GE) Meen's singles, first round:

bt I Seric (Crost) 6-4 6-2.
ESSEN OPEN (Ger) Men's singles, first round:
M Streer (Ger) Men's singles, first round:
M Streer (Ger) Men's Proposses (Aust 3-6 6-4
6-3: 3 Staven (M2) bt A O'Braon (US) 7-6 6-3;
D Vacek (CR Rep) bt R Fusion (rt) 6-3 6-1, J Windows (Notif) bt P Haarhus (Notif) 6-1 8-1; 9
Block Crost be P Manhrus (Ger) 6-36-1; J Frans (Arg) bt O Crogodor (Uzh) 6-2 6-2; M Woodforde (Aus) bt P Meahrus (Uzh) 6-3 6-2; Second round: Y Kalarison (Rus) bt A Volton (Rus)
6-4 2-8 6-1; 8 Backer (Ger) bt M Gustafiscon (Swe) 7-6 6-4; M Weshington (US) bt A Gaudenz (b) 7-5 4-6 6-3.

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#### **Newell leaves** it late to land knock-out blow

Football

**GREG WOOD** Watford Blackburn Rovers

Ray Harford will claim that it is the result which matters, but although Blackburn Rovers advanced to the fourth round of the Coca-Coia Cup here last night, their performance bare-

ly deserved even a replay. To

come from behind with two sec-

ond-half goals may show character, but their problem is that

there is no quality to go with keeper was forced into action.

asked supporters still queuing outside the North Stand to trudge round to the south instead but at the time it might have been kinder to advice them to forget it and go home. By then, it was already apparent that the wind and rain, combined with a complete absence of imagination on both sides, would make it a very long 90 minutes.

#### **Inter prepare fresh** offer for Cantona

Manchester United have resisted a further approach from Internazionale, involving a possible swap for the former Old Trafford player Paul Ince, to tempt Eric Cantona to Italy.

Italian newspapers reported that Inter officials, who failed to lure the Frenchman during the close season, were preparing a £7m offer when the Italian transfer market reopens for a week on 2 November. Inter have also suggested an exchange deal with Ince, who left United last summer for £7m. United's chairman, Martin

Edwards, said Cantona was not for sale: "It is becoming a bit tedious having this constant speculation involving Inter Milan." Manchester United have lost Paul Parker, at least in the short-

term. The full-back, who missed most of last season following surgery on an ankle, has had a cartilage operation and will be out of action for six weeks. Sheffield Wednesday yester-

day scaled the signings of Darko Kovacevic and Dejan Stefanovic. Wednesday have agreed to pay Red Star Belgrade about £4m for the 21-year-olds, but the deal is subject to work permits

Pleat, who says he is turning to the foreign market because of the inflated prices being asked by British clubs, previously enquired about Juninho. The Brazilian, signed by Middlesbrough, does not yet know if he will make his Premiership debut at Manches-

ter United on Saturday. Robson, returning to Old Trafford for the first time since becoming Middlesbrough man-

After 10 minutes the Tannoy

It was 19 minutes before either goal faced a serious threat

#### ager over a year ago, will assess the situation when his £5m

gning arrives in England. Juninho, who received his work permit last night but must wait for international clearance, is due to land later this week.

Manchester City have made their first indication of the player they want to help them off the bottom of the Premiership by asking Liverpool about Nigel Clough. "He is among a number of players who I feel could be an asset," City's manager, Alan Ball, said.

John Still became the season's sixth managerial casualty when he resigned from Peterborough United in disgust at his treatment from fans. He had been at the club since May 1994. Peterborough lost 3-0 at Brentford on Saturday, which left his side 17th in the Second Division with three wins from 13 games.

Darren Ferguson has been put on the transfer list at Wolves at his own request. The son of Manchester United's manager Alex, was dropped for Satur-day's draw with Watford, The midfielder, who left Old Traf-ford for Molineux last year, said: "As soon as I play a bad game, I'm out of the side."

Hull City, bottom of the Second Division, face a winding-up order, brought by the inland Revenue, in the High Court to-down the left and his was cross day. Their chairman, Martin Fish, puts the cluh's chance of surviving the case at "50-50"

Croatia's national coach Miroslav Blazevic, is being held in a French prison in connection with a probe into the alleged use of slush funds by Marseille. Blazevic coached Nantes between 1989 and 1991. Tapie appeal, page 12

Tim Flowers dived to his left to gather Tommy Mooney's strike from outside the area.

When a supporter staged a ly before half-time, it seemed clear that he had seen enough and decided to find the quickest way to be thrown out. Unfortunately for him, two minntes later, Ian Pearce, previously untroubled at the heart of Blackburn's defence, suffered an astonishing lack of concentration. Almost as if mistaking Kevin Phillips for Colin Hendry, Pearce rolled a slow, square ball across the edge of the box, and the only danger as Phillips advanced and carefully placed the hall past Flowers' right hand was that a fit of the giggles might spoil his aim.

Watford re-emerged from the dressing-room, momentarily at least, a side transformed. In the 49th minute three excellent chances came and went. Flowers was at full stretch to palm over Keith Millen's header, and from the corner Jeff Kenna was well placed to clear the same player's shot off the line. Moments later, a downward header from Jamie Moralee was scramhled against

the post and away by Flowers. It was a sequence which the home side would soon regret. Ripley's cross-cum-shot against the bar - a trick he later repeated - was a belated sign of intent from the League champions, and after 59 minutes the winger's corner found its way off Hendry's head to Alan Shearer unmarked on the left corner of the area. His shot might just have missed the far post, but a ricochet off Darren Bazeley

made the argument academic. As the pattern returned to its previous tedium, Blackburn were now the more likely win-ners. A header from Newell brought a marvellous reflex save from Kevin Miller and as David Batty, following up, seemed certain to score, Miller was at his feet to deny him. But then, after 79 minutes, Jeff Kenna turned Colin Foster gave Newell an easy header to

secure the victory. Westford (4-4-2): Miller, Bazeley, Miller, Foc-tor, Holdsworth: Mooney, Ramage, Palmer, Laver, Moralee, Phillips, Substitutes not tried: Page, Pitcher, Cherry (gl). Blackburn Rovers (4-4-2): Flowers; Berg, Hendy, Peane, Kenny, Shenwood, Batty, Warturst, Epiley, Newell, Sheare, Substitutes not used: Holmes, Sutton, Minms

Photograph, page27



#### England enjoy fun and farce

JAMES ALEXANDER reports from Randjesfontein England 242-4 dec NFO XI 130

England won by 112 runs

England won the opening match of their tour largely as they pleased yesterday and had some fun along the way. Nicky Oppenheimer's collection of has-beens and young thrusters under the captaincy of his son, Jonathan, was never going to provide problems for an international team - even England. The victory margin was

There will be many more demanding occasions ahead they could scarcely be less demanding - hut it was a perfectly pleasant way for England to mark their first game in South Africa for 31 years. The sun-shine was flawless, the ground picturesque and the largesse agreeable. The proceeds from a crowd of around 1,000 went to the United Cricket Board of South Africa's development

DAVE HADFIELD

The England captain, Shaun

Edwards, has suffered the worst

blow of his career by being ruled out of the Halifax Centenary

World Cup final at Wembley on

The Wigan scrum-half re-

signed himself to missing the

tournament decider yesterday

when he had a recurrence of the knee infection that kept him out

of the semi-final victory over

Wales. "I feel very sorry for Shaun," said the England

coach, Phil Larder. "I know how

hard he has prepared for this competition and he has been a

tremendous help to me in the

Edwards has had a miserable World Cup, going down with a

stomach bug after England's

opening match win over Aus-

tralia and only making a brief

programme and, in the spirit of batted, he was out for nought. unity, hlack and white children played happily together on the outfield during intervals.

Oppenheimer decided he wanted his own cricket ground, so he built one on his estate. Diamond billionaires can do that sort of thing. He has made a splendid joh of it, too. The pavilion is marble-floored, and Ernie Els could practice his putting on the outfield.

The atmosphere was relaxed, the circumstances occasionally close to farcical. Herschelle Gibbs, one of the most highlyrated young batsmen in South Africa, was unable to field after slipping in the shower. When he

Total (95, 167) 10
Total (96 6, 90.2 overa) 242
Falls 1-88, 2-147, 3-179, 4-188, 5-205.
Did not bat: D Gough, M C Bott, R Khargworth, D E Melcolm.

Booling: Electry 11, 3,240; Williams, 12,2,48-2; Page 10,2,350-1; Koute 10-2,36-0; Benten-stein 13-1-63-1; Oppenheimer 4-0-18-0.

**Edwards to miss final** 

His infected knee is a legacy

of the Australian match and a

bitterly disappointed Edwards

has complained about the initial

medical attention be received.

is that Bobbic Goulding, out-standing against Wales in Ed-

wards' absence, will definitely be

Larder had been hoping to

keep Australia guessing about who would fill the role at

Wemhley. Now, with John

Bentley and Daryl Powell unlikely to be fit to return, he is

odds-on to name the same

side that beat Wales. Jason Robinson and Andy Parrell

are both expected to be fit.
The Widnes referee, Stuart

Cummings, has been put in charge of the final. "It is the pin-

nacle of my career," said the 34-year-old. "We will try to

achieve the conditions to

at scrum-half on Saturday.

The effect of his withdrawal

against Fiji since.

Later, Hugh Page, who had one season with Essex in the late 1980s, faced two balls before realising he was not wearing his contact lenses. When he returned, Page saw the ball well enough to clohber three sixes off Richard Illingworth.

Illingworth, though, collect-ed five wickets and he and Alec Stewart, playing his first match since July, will take most from the game. Illingworth's chances will be at a premium in a Test series sure to be dominated by quick bowling, but he is a vastly improved bowler over the past 12 months - and he will not rock as many boats as Philip Tufnell.

H H Gibbs e Stewart b Hingworth
H A Page o Russett b Hingworth
S Eventhy run out
1) Teeger a and b Wattergott
Oppenheimer put out
H S Williams b Wattergot

Both England and Australia

are likely to be tolerably pleased

with the choice. Playing under

a referee of the same national-

ity helps players know what is expected of them, but the Aus-

tralian camp have also made

complimentary noises about

Cummings. They will certainly prefer him to Russell Smith,

who penalised them heavily in their semi-final against New Zealand on Saturday and who

was the subject of a post-match

Fulton, will name his final line-

up today. Provided Rod Wishart

has recovered from leg and

head injuries, Fulton is unlike-

ly to deviate far from the side that beat the Kiwis in injury

time, although David Gillespie

could come into contention if his hamstring has recovered

The Australian coach, Bob.

character on tour rather than the volcanic presence of Tidnell. He also claimed a degree of credit for helping Dlingworth. Apparently, Raymond noticed a flaw in Richard's action and encouraged him to place his rear foot parallel to the bowling crease in delivery stride. "His action had become

cricket," Raymond said, "and this allowed him to get more body into his action." A coin was not even required to decide England would bat and, before lunch; the hosts' generosity extended beyond rigging the toss and ample helpings of smoked salmon and chardonnay. ing was no better than decent

slack because of all the one-day

rust and the potential carnage never materialised. Atherton missed a drive at perately to discover his timing until the end.

club standard. Yet England's

batting had an ample coating of

Ray Illingworth says he in his first imnings since July. He wants his namesake's sensible gradually started to play sweet character on tour rather than hours he spent in the middle before retiring at lunch will do him no harm.

Mark Ramprakash was in better touch than any of the senior batsmen and one of the management's most fervent hopes is that his sublime talent 10 centuries last summer – cart at last be translated into Test match runs. John Crawley and Robin Smith also looked like men in need of match practice, but at least there is more than three weeks until the first Test. Jack Russell worked the ball around effectively in the late

Devon Malcohn and Darren Michael Atherton and Stewart Gough knew the slow pitch were both dropped twice - the would draw much of their sting chances ranging from dollies to and they eased themselves gen-difficult—and some of the bowling to reach full pace. It was left to Illingworth and Mike Watkinson to run through the batting. Some wickets were carned with genuine skill, others presented by wild slogs as Page and Stewart struggled des- the festival atmosphere lasted

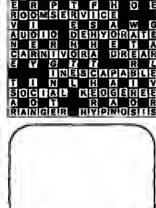
#### THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

- Means of opening Celtic barrow, perhaps (7) Pan is acceptable with
- foreign tag inside it (4-3) Sheds, for example, not illowed next to lines (9) Potplant (5)
- Century not recorded then he led India? (5) Fitting onto upper con-struction (9)
- Rattigan made such play of divorce statistics (8,6) Worthless condition of anines, if icing-damaged 4
- Thick woollen fabric, tightly bound together Backing in the barrel, Diogenes was such a lazy 7

Alberta Rusal Wasterd

- wear away surface? (5) Issue No 1 of "The
- Lady", say? (9) One manipulates displaced organ, fitting between two pipes (7) Number of company joining mutinous ship (7)
- Main features of old-fash- 22 ioned belief (7) 25 Weapon to backfire? (9) Sleep and oxygen helping recovery (11)
- ldle talk of Georgia's contraction (3) Ill humour of Walton say, without line? (5) Unhurried response in church (7)

## OVERCOME SPARSE B M H A I A D SUBSONIC EGONOG ER P T F H O E ROOMSERVICE V I S A W G AUOTO DEHYORATE N E R W H E T A CARNIVORA DREAR



- Broadcast from Pluto, intrinsically (8) Early short price I put out
- Foreign visa found in gar-ret of one's ancestor? (9) See Parking device done
- with? (8) Observed, like one with varicella symptoms (7) Sculptor's hole-in-one (7) Shoe with black heel (6) Set of values from the Channel Islands? (5) Douglas given up, right?

#### Weight loss to be monitored

Boxers will not be able to fight shy of the scales in future if, as expected, a new weight-checking scheme is written into the British Board of Control's rule

book today. A new list of safety measures to be announced in the wake of James Murray's death after a title fight in Glasgow two weeks ago includes random weigh-ins in the weeks before title bouts to combat the effects of dehydration. The list will be part of a report from an independent working party, headed by a leading neurologist, Peter Richards, which was set up after Bradley Stone's death 18 months ago.

Fighters will have to achieve

a poundage target, to be fixed

by the Board's doctors, in the week or fortnight before a maor contest, or the contest could be called off. The checks could happen at any time to any boxer. An across-the-board system would be very difficult to implement, but the surprise element should keep fighters to their prescribed mark.

Losing weight saps stamina and causes dehydration, a state which can make boxers more prone to serious injury. It was the major reason why the Board moved weigh-ins to 24 hours before the event. Late last year, the Board got tough with the now-retired Chris Eubank, who used to virtually cut out food and drink for a couple of days before fights to boil down to the 12st super-middleweight limit. The more sophisticated Mag-

netic Resonance Imaging brain scans - the cost of which promoter Frank Warren has offered to underwrite for every British boxer in the coming year - will be compulsory and is more advanced technology than the present CT scanning. The MRI scan provides a more in-depth search of the brain and a vital

preventative measure. The rest periods for fighters stopped by knock-out - presently 28 days - could be extended in future, and similar, temporary sidelining may even be ordered for boxers involved in hard contests, even though they may have gone the distance. Neither more time between rounds nor a reduction of rounds is expected to be part of the 1995

medical package. Writ from Lewis, page 25

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